BLK

Number 6, May 1989

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Minority AIDS Project

Blk Board

FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 1989

Black and White Men Together/Detroit Anniversary and Midwest Region Network Meeting. Workshops, board meeting, banquet and brunch. Field trip to a Canadian bar. 313-965-4646.

MONDAY, MAY 1, 1989

AIDS 101 Health Outreach and Training sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project for the next four consecutive Mondays. 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m.-4:30 p.m. 213-936-4949.

FRIDAY, MAY 5, 1989

Ayofemi Stowe Folayan will read excerpts from her works. She is co-author of *Talking About Talking* and *The Power to Shape the World*. Page One Bookstore, 966 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 7:30 p.m. 818-798-8694.

Party Animal Night/Cinco de Mayo Party. Door prizes. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 213-734-8849.

SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1989

Youth Workshop sponsored by the Minority AIDS Project. Olivett Baptist Church, 976 E. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 10 a.m.-1 p.m. 213-936-4949.

SUNDAY, MAY 7, 1989

Bowling outing sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los. Call Diamond for location. 213-738-7394.

Jewel Williams, owner of the Catch One, is celebrating her 50th Birthday with a dinner at Catch One. 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 3:30 p.m. dinner and program; 8 p.m.-2 a.m. dancing. $10 before 8 p.m., $3 after. Call between 9 a.m.-5 p.m. 213-734-8849 for reserved dinner seating.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 10, 1989

"Building a Multicultural Organization" will be the topic of discussion at this month's Community Roundtable Breakfast. Gay and Lesbian Community Service Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 a.m.

SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1989

The Clubhouse will celebrate its 13th Anniversary with a gala party. 1296 Upshur St., N.W., Washington, D.C.

FRIDAY, MAY 19, 1989

Theater outing to "Harlem Suite" starring Maurice Hines and Melba Moore sponsored by the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum. Champagne reception with stars follows performance. Pantages Theater, 6233 Hollywood Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. $45-85. 213-667-2549.

Black and White Men Together/Youngstown Sixth Anniversary Weekend called "Getting to Know Ourselves." Workshops, reception, picnic, brunch, banquet, party, film and sports. Free housing. May 19-21. For more information, call Don at 216-782-3483 or Bob at 216-747-3624.

SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1989

Thelma Houston will be among the performers entertaining at the sixth annual Long Beach Lesbian and Gay Pride Parade and Festival May 20 and 21, 1989. Grand marshall of the event titled, "Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride," is Larry Boxx. Shoreline Aquatic Park, Shoreline Dr. at Pine Ave., Long Beach, Calif. 10 a.m.-10 p.m., both days. 213-439-0696.

As part of the continuing "Lesbian Writers Series" at A Different Light Bookstore, Ayofemi Stowe Folayan will read excerpts from her works. She is co-author of *Talking About Talking* and *The Power to Shape the World*. 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m. 213-668-0629.

House Party sponsored by Black Jack. Music, dancing, conversation, plus things to eat and drink. Non-sexual. Open to non-Black Jack members. The Franklin Plaza Hotel, 7230 Franklin Ave., Los Angeles, Calif. 8 p.m.-2 a.m. $5. 213-338-1516.

Black comedian Karen Williams will M.C. an evening of music and comedy celebrating the tenth anniversary of the Women's Alcoholism Center. Also appearing will be jazz vocalist Rhiannon, jazz musician Mimi Foxx and Sara Felder. Complimentary dessert and complimentary non-alcoholic beverages. Free childcare. Interpreted for the hearing impaired. First Congregational Church, Post and Mason Streets, San Francisco, Calif. 8 p.m. $10-25. 415-282-8900.

"Candidate Night" for Emperor and Empress of the Imperial Court of South Bay. This fundraiser will include appearances by the candidates and a show featuring lip-syncing. Annexx, 835 S. La Brea Ave., Inglewood, Calif. 8 p.m. $3 donation. For more information contact Dana. 213-671-7323.

SUNDAY, MAY 21, 1989

As part of the continuing "Gay Writers Series" at A Different Light Bookstore, Larry Duplechan will read excerpts from his latest novel, Tangled Up in Blue. 4014 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 7 p.m. 213-668-0629.

Planning Meeting for a Black Lesbian Conference called by an ad hoc committee. Open to all black women. Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, Calif. 2:30 p.m. Call Gini for more information. 213-204-3894.

Nude Beach Outing sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Call René for location. 213-483-1108.

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1989

Annual Picnic sponsored by Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles. Griffith Park. 3 p.m. Call for location. 213-664-4716.

SUNDAY, JULY 2, 1989

The Ninth Annual Convention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together will take place July 2-8, 1989 at the Florida State University Center for Professional Development in Tallahassee, Florida. For more information contact BWMT Tallahassee/Big Bend Florida, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, Florida 32304-3321. 904-681-9499.

FRIDAY, JULY 21, 1989

The second biannual Adodi Retreat entitled, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," will take place July 21-23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, a village 30 miles outside Philadelphia. For additional information, contact Larry Hadley at 215-662-1755, Cliff Rawlins at 215-727-1084 or write Adodi, Box 19132, Philadelphia, Penn. 19103.

Blk Mail

Dear Editor:

It was my impression that BLK would be a publication of good taste until I picked up my first issue and read Revon Kyle Banneker's recent interview with porn "actor" Randy Cochran [BLK, March 1989].

The glorification of pornography and prostitution was appalling and unfortunately reinforced the negative, immoral images so often associated with the homosexual community. Your choice to showcase someone who "sold out" for an easy buck proves where BLK's priorities lie. It was not only disappointing, it was terribly insulting.

Jeff Copeland
Hollywood, California

Dear Editor:

I'm impressed with your new BLK magazine. Would like to see you continue the Randy Cochran-type interview with black "porno" stars. Please send a gift subscription including the three back issues to the enclosed.

Larry Northan
Scottsdale, Arizona

Dear Editor:

Is there any way possible to have the enclosed cover photo of Randy Cochran autographed? The article was great and very informative.

J. R. Thompkins
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dear Editor:

The previous letters to the editor [BLK, March 1989; BLK, April 1989] concerning "the letter" circulated during the [National Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership] Conference point to a strategic flaw in the approach of many of our black gay leaders.

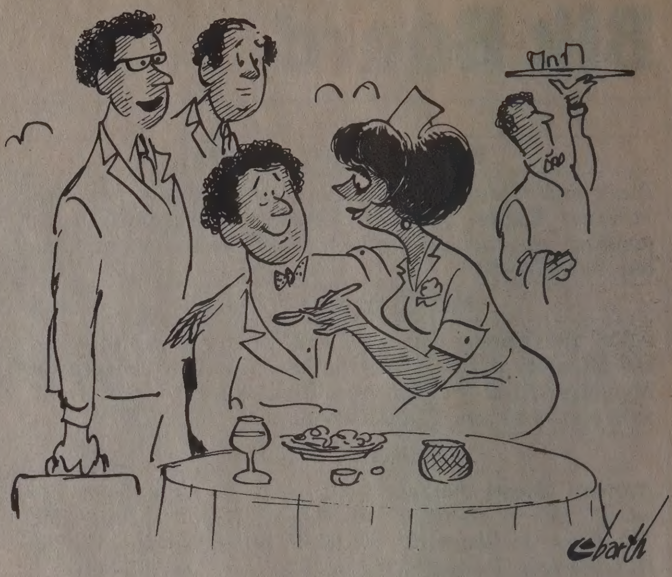
The approach so often is (1) "You are going about the business of helping our community all wrong," and (2) "I *know* what you can do to remedy the situation." While I respect the dedication, and leadership skills, good intentions and guts of our leaders, I believe that this approach has not generally been effective.

Rather than point the finger at others, I suggest that our leaders turn that finger on themselves. It is a very rare instance when I have ever heard our leaders say, "I may be part of the problem; I may need to change; I may need to listen more to others more effectively."

I have a feeling that "the letter" issue is not over. Other issues will likely crop up and remain unsolved if we are not able to admit to our brothers that we made a mistake, to earnestly be willing to rectify the problem, and to accept good intentions of those who err.

Phillip Jones
Gardena, California

Blk Mail should be addressed to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Letters to the Editor must include the writer's full name, address and home telephone number. Names will be withheld from publication on request. Letters may be edited for purposes of space or clarity.



"Conspicuous heterosexualism."

BLK

Number 6, May 1989

Editor and Publisher Alan Bell

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Cover: Ayofemi Stowe Folayan. *Photo by Bob Finney.*
Cartoons courtesy Ebony. New captions by BLK.

Stonewall 20: A Generation of Pride

6th Annual

LONG BEACH LESBIAN & GAY PRIDE

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Saturday and Sunday

PARADE
Ocean Blvd.
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Talking about Ayofemi

Playwright, poet and performer to appear in L.A. and Oakland

By Mark Haile

Robin Podolsky (left) and Ayofemi Stowe Folayan

Identifying yourself as a black lesbian community activist would not be construed by most people as an act of humility. But for Ayofemi Stowe Folayan, the modesty is real if unconscious, the description, genuine understatement.

Ayofemi Stowe Folayan has been an activist on many fronts— as a black woman, as a lesbian, as a writer and as a performer, mentioning but a few. The play she co-wrote and in which she co-stars with Robin Podolsky, *Talking about Talking,* will be performed on May 7, 1989 at the West Hollywood Park Auditorium, and on June 2, 1989 at Mama Bears Coffeehouse in Oakland. The two-woman piece speaks directly to all people living in an oppressive culture, unwilling to settle for mere survival.

The concept that informs *Talking about Talking* began to take shape following Folayan's participation in the Celebration Theater production of *Pursuit of Happiness* in 1987. The play, an intensely personal piece for Folayan, has gone through several revisions which parallel her own evolution. The dialogue clearly conveys the development of her own sense of identify as the community around her is seen struggling to define itself.

The long road to self-discovery of Ayofemi Stowe Folayan has been pitted by the experiences that today have become themes in her writings. *In a Different Light,* a newly published anthology of lesbian work, contains a poem by Folayan about the death of her daughter, a poignant expression of grief and of recovery found through the healing power of suffering.

"My writing is a declaration," states Folayan, "There is always some hope—even if you have to ferret it out." This she says while recovering from a hip injury received when she was knocked down during a recent Pro-Choice demonstration at a Mid-Wilshire women's clinic.

Physical restrictions have done little to slow her down. Instead, they have provided her with fresh anecdotes to relate. "I can't physically stand in line to march now, but I can write about it!" she declares. Folayan remembers a story evolving from her work on the rape hotline, and the experiences that arose from that involvement.

"I believe in the power of being alive. I'm here, and I'm learning to name what is." The dedication shown in Folayan's work could be considered remarkable in the face of her infirmities or of the calamities she has weathered through life.

Raised in Boston by her grandparents, Folayan lost her only brother in a fire. She lets it be known that she was a victim of incest as a child, in the hope that her recovery will motivate other women to seek help in overcoming their own experiences of childhood abuse.

While at Vassar College, Folayan became politicized through her involvement with the student Afro-American Society. When Folayan left Boston for New York, she enrolled in the National Black Theater troupe and began to explore her artistic talents.

It was there that Folayan received training in acting, writing, directing and managing a theater group. "When you're forced to grow, you find out you can do a lot more things than you thought you could," she recalls.

In New York, Folayan discovered that art could fuse with politics. When it was time to make the move to California, she was surprised by the laid back manner of West Coast theater. "If you brought up politics in theater in those days, you were considered strange," she remembers. For more than a decade, Folayan put her politics and creative talent on the shelf while she pursued the comforts of the material world. "I was slowly dying when I was not writing," she admits, "The externals were all okay, but I didn't have me."

Recurring illness brought on depression and isolation. In gaining back her health, Folayan saw a distinct similarity between her situation and that of so many other lesbians of color. The ominous lack of attention to women's health issues— cancer, alcoholism, rape, and lupus, to name a few—rankles her. "I'm going to write about and illuminate these things so we can talk about them. Until we address it and talk about it, we'll stay fearful and isolated," Folayan insists.

After ending her isolation, Folayan went to the far extreme, becoming vocal and visible through her participation in IMRU radio and Celebration Theater, where she was named playwright-in-residence during 1987 and 1988.

"It took me a long time to acknowledge I needed to be active in my life," says Folayan.

"Fe-mi-nist." Folayan intones the word slowly. "There is power in being able to stand up and tell my story. It's an encouraging event for me, to have other women to tell their stories, and to have hope."

"There are not a lot of us [black lesbian feminists] out there," she continues frankly, "telling our stories."

To correct that, Folayan has become involved in the planning of the 1991 National Lesbian Conference, with the aim of making it as inclusive as possible. "I'm real excited about the potential of this conference," she says.

"I'm dedicated to not being one of that small core of people who burn themselves out.

"I'm interested in reaching out to other women who share my existence. I'm a real bridgeworker. We *must* make these connections."

Folayan finds the lack of an organized black lesbian community in Los Angeles distressing. "It makes me very sad," she concedes, hoping that events at the National Lesbian Conference will constitute the groundwork to help change that.

Folayan goes on to note how few times skills acquired by those active in the community are turned over to the next generation. She voices a concern for preserving what has been learned to date, as well as capturing the talents of the present for the future.

"Both Audre Lorde and Pat Parker are battling breast cancer," notes Folayan, "I'm trying to pass on what I know; I won't be here forever, but I want to do it responsibly."

In working to preserve her contributions to lesbian and gay culture, Folayan is preparing to adapt *Talking about Talking* for video. She is also excited about a program taped with Audre Lorde and Cheryl Clarke for KPFK's annual Gay Pride Day this coming Fourth of July weekend.

In addition to her current theatrical productions, Folayan is at work on a novel, and has two readings scheduled: one at Page One Bookstore in Pasadena on May 5, 1989 and one at A Different Light Bookstore in Silverlake on May 20, 1989.

Folayan reflects inward for a moment. "So many people think, I'm the only one!...I never had to be ashamed. I could be honest about these things in my life.

"The first step is to acknowledge the effort that it takes to survive. We get wrapped up in what it's like, and not how it can be."

She takes another moment to assess her life. Ayofemi Stowe Folayan: activist, mother, black woman, lesbian, artist, and finishes the thought with a shrug, a smile, and another understatement: "I'm just out there, doing what I do."

New & Noteworthy
Pat Parker
Cheryl Cla

Ayofemi Stowe Folayan (center) with authors Pat Parker (left) and Cheryl Clarke prior to a recent reading of their works at California State University, Los Angeles.

Policing the Task Force

How and why people of color got kicked off a city advisory board

By L. Lloyd Jordan

On April 14, 1982 Ivy Bottini stood before the Los Angeles Police Commission arguing that the voices of the lesbian and gay community needed to be heard down at Parker Center. Among those who stepped up to the mike one by one to back Bottini were people of color representing Asian/Pacific Lesbians and Gays (APLG), Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles (BWMT/LA) and the Latin Church of Christian Fellowship. They were attesting to the inclusiveness of the Gay and Lesbian Police Advisory Task Force (GLPATF), of which Bottini was co-chair. That day the Commission recognized the Task Force as its official liaison to the lesbian and gay community.

On April 6, 1989 all persons of color and minority-oriented organizations represented on the Task Force were expelled from membership by the presiding chairman, Marshal Phillips, in the presence of a police department representative. Immediately afterward, Ivy Bottini accepted re-election as co-chair. Also disenfranchised at that meeting were representatives of several organizations who had previously been allowed to vote at Task Force meetings, but who had sided with the dissident minorities in the organization's recent controversy.

What happened between April 1982 and April 1989 at GLPATF to destroy one of the few coalitions functioning in the gay and lesbian community?

Not a lot, actually.

For most of its seven years the Task Force has drawn desultory participation from its members, including its minority members, except for brief periods following some police-related crisis. Two such crises converged about a year and a half ago. A series of assaults on gay men and police raids on Silverlake bars focused attention on the relations between the community and LAPD.

Marshal Phillips, former political vice president of Stonewall Democratic Club, along with several other lesbian and gay activists, demanded accountability from local politicians and the police department. As usual, GLPATF was largely ignored in the community's first reaction. But as negotiations continued GLPATF seemed the logical vehicle for ongoing dialogue with the police. Phillips became Stonewall's representative on the Task Force. He is widely credited with having been instrumental in the police negotiations with Mayor Bradley's and Councilman Mike Woo's offices, and with having helped restore prominence and credibility to GLPATF.

Minority Gays Expelled

However, last December, when the upcoming vacancy of the chairmanship was discussed, neither Phillips nor any other Task Force member expressed a willingness to run for the position. Outgoing chairman Tom Coleman appointed Gabriel Bustamente, a gay aide to Mayor Bradley, and Roger Coggan of Lawyers for Human Rights (LHR) as members of a nominating committee to recruit new co-chairs.

Apparently, the trouble began when Phillips learned that he was not going to be nominated by the committee, but that a man of color not previously a member of the Task Force was to be nominated. Although Phillips told BLK that GLPATF's by-laws do not permit new or non-members to hold office, no motion was made to declare Marich ineligible on those grounds, nor did anyone object later when Phillips ran on a slate with a brand new member.

Coggan and Bustamente decided that Mario Soliz Marich, a Latino, would make a good candidate. Marich, former co-chair of the No On 96/102 Committee and current administrator of the Neighborhood AIDS Consortium, agreed to run. Coggan and Bustamente contend that Marich's administrative background, past activism and commitment to inclusion of lesbians and gays of color made him exceptionally well-qualified. They also asked Vanessa Place of the Municipal Elections Committee of Los Angeles (MECLA) to run for the co-chairwomanship.

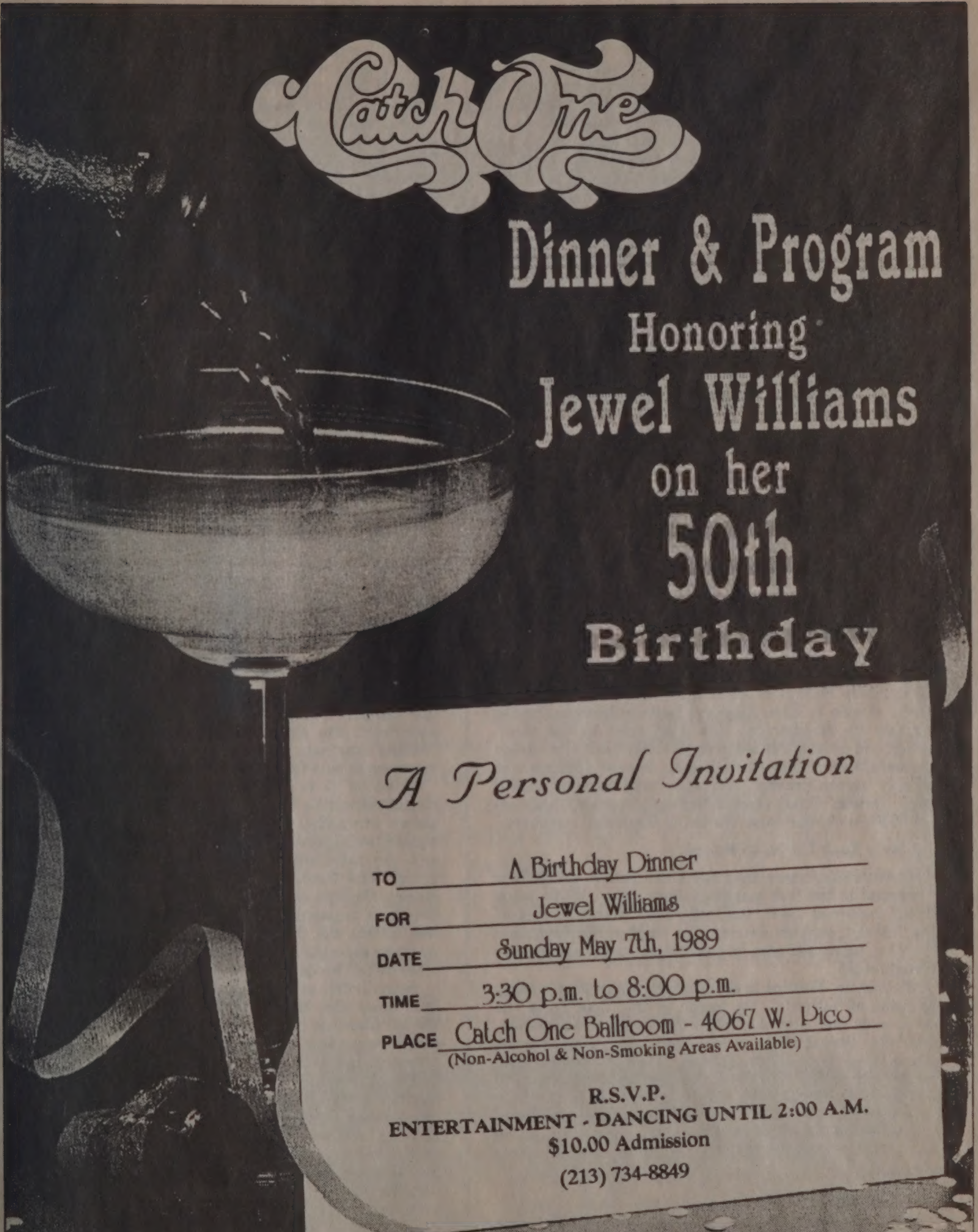
At the January meeting, the nominating committee's report was not voted upon when Phillips made it clear he felt cheated out of nomination by the committee. Phillips, and Stonewall member Don Hunt, had already explained their concerns to Stonewall's executive committee, members of which began soliciting support for Phillips within and outside the Task Force.

Marich's supporters also began soliciting support for the February election. But Place agreed to run with Phillips as a slate, prompting the nominating committee to recruit Carol Anderson of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAF) to run independently. Thus, in February, voters perceived the choice to be between Phillips and Place or Marich and Anderson, all newcomers to GLPATF except Phillips.

Both sides stacked the meeting with supporters, some of whom paid dues on the spot and indicated what organizations they were "representing." No one was effectively challenged because it had already been discovered that according to long-ignored by-laws, only one organization was technically eligible to vote. BWMT/LA's GLPATF representative, who is African American, has not attended GLPATF meetings in months, and APLG's membership seems to have lapsed some time ago. Phillips and Place won a narrow victory.

Arbitration Attempt Fails

But at the following month's meeting, fewer of Phillips's supporters showed up and a motion to invalidate the election and hold another one in April passed. Phillips stormed out, while Place continued chairing the meeting, after which she resigned to encourage compromise. Marich's supporters asked Gay and Lesbian Com-



Catch One

Dinner & Program

Honoring

Jewel Williams

on her

50th

Birthday

A Personal Invitation

TO A Birthday Dinner
FOR Jewel Williams
DATE Sunday May 7th, 1989
TIME 3:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
PLACE Catch One Ballroom - 4067 W. Pico
(Non-Alcohol & Non-Smoking Areas Available)

R.S.V.P.
ENTERTAINMENT - DANCING UNTIL 2:00 A.M.
$10.00 Admission
(213) 734-8849

munity Service Center Executive Director Torie Osborn to mediate between the two sides.

But when Bottini arrived at the mediation conference representing Stonewall (of which she is president), she maintained that she agreed to be present on condition that no reconciliation requiring Phillips to run again for co-chair was possible: His position was not subject to negotiation, she insisted. Although Marich's representatives denied agreeing to this condition, they did agree to propose that their bloc recruit a woman of color to run for the co-chairwomanship, and failing that, a man of color would be allowed to run. Later, Marich's supporters agreed to support this compromise.

But Bottini now maintains that she never agreed that if no woman could be found to run, a man of color would be deemed acceptable. Since this stance assured Phillips his seat, while eliminating the possibility that Marich or either of the other two (male) Latinos in the organization could be elected, the compromise immediately fell through. Instead, Phillips, claiming still to be co-chair, called Marich and offered to appoint him head of an outreach committee to address concerns of people of color. Marich refused.

On April 7 when Task Force members arrived expecting a new election, they were greeted by Phillips wielding the gavel along with a parliamentarian and two sergeants-at-arms, all Stonewall members. Only representatives of those organizations which had paid $25 in dues, submitted organizational by-laws, certified a minimum of ten members, identified their official meeting place and designated their representatives in writing were permitted to vote. Only Phillips's supporters, all seated in a line at the front of the meeting instead of in the customary circle, were able to produce the required documents, having been warned in advance.

Stonewall's parliamentarian then declared that, not being members, Marich's supporters had no right to be heard unless Phillips chose to grant them that privilege. After a motion to allow Gay and Lesbian Latinos Unidos to retain its membership was disallowed by the chair, Marich and most of his supporters walked out. The police representative witnessed the entire dispute; Phillips was the only person present who knew who he was. Thereupon, Bottini was elected acting co-chair, both of GLPATF's spokespersons now being Stonewall members.

A New Task Force to Form?

Marich's supporters have met since then to decide how to respond to the last meeting's *coup d'état*. While some wished to pursue the matter, others felt that it was pointless. Instead, support seems to be building for formation of a new, more inclusive organization to address police-related issues.

Meanwhile, Phillips is accustoming himself to holding the reins of authority. On behalf of the Task Force, he has already met with the Police Commission demanding, ironically, that LAPD be required to *actively* recruit lesbian and gay police officers. Having talked with Deputy Mayor Mike Gage, he is pushing for a lesbian or gay police commissioner. Also ironically, it is the lone black member of the Commission whose term expires in July, and who is expected to be re-appointed unless he chooses to step down. Nonetheless, Phillips is recruiting nominees.

Uneasy Allies

Every so often an incident occurs which dramatizes the fact that what Anglo and minority lesbians and gays have in common is shared oppression, not shared values; a common enemy, not a common community. It is becoming clear that Anglos, at least, are increasingly acting on their awareness of this fact to protect what they perceive as their legitimate, exclusively gay-focused agenda.

Although none of the people of color involved has charged Stonewall with racism *per se*, there is a clear difference in the way the two sides perceive the racial issue. Phillips and his defenders assert that no ethnic considerations are involved in the dispute because their *intent* has not been to exclude minorities, but to prevent "outsiders" from taking over GLPATF and its agenda. The outsiders, they feel, merely happen to include people of color with a minority-focused agenda. Minorities feel that if the *effect* of Stonewall's actions is to exclude people of color and their concerns, when there are other options available, racial insensitivity is clearly at issue.

"We were active in getting [GLPATF] credibility and afterwards, when they didn't like how we acted, they kicked us out and kept the credibility," commented Phill Wilson, former co-chair of BWMT/LA who, however, believes that GLPATF's scanty record of accomplishment makes the organization not worth fighting over.

Stonewall has recently experienced a renaissance of visibility and influence since its eclipse in the early eighties. Officially chartered to promote lesbian and gay interests in the Democratic Party, it has broadened its charge to defense of those interests on virtually all fronts, including police-community relations. Much of its recent rise can be attributed to the tenacious energy and effective fundraising of Marshal Phillips. Without any visible means of support, Phillips has made enormous donations of money and time to Stonewall. That is probably why the club has made of Phillips's desire to be GLPATF co-chair a *casus belli*. But it is also an opportunity for Stonewall to flex its new-found organizational muscle within the community.

Both Sides at Fault

When Phillips complained of not being nominated by the GLPATF committee, Stonewall leaders opted to overwhelm the organization rather than suggest that Phillips nominate himself and lobby fellow Task Force members to vote for him on the strength of his record.

However, it is also possible that they suspected so straightforward a tactic would not work despite Phillips's known strengths, because of what some regard as his equally well-known weaknesses. Indeed, both Stonewall and the nominating committee seem to have tiptoed around the fundamental problem with Phillips's candidacy: Phillips seems to be regarded by many gay activists as insensitive, unpredictable and heavy-handed. Nor is this the first time he is reported to have been upset by an organization's failure to nominate him for an office he felt he deserved.

In an article on the current dispute based partially on interviews she held with Phillips, *News* editor Sandy Dwyer describes him as "making some unprintable statements regarding" an opponent and as hanging up the phone in her face when asked an unwelcome question. During the arbitration meeting, Osborn is reported as having warned Bottini that she had heard mostly negative assessments of Phillips, whom she had never met, adding, "and where there's smoke, there's usually fire." At Stonewall, members asked that precedent be broken and that he not be allowed to chair the portion of the meeting for which he, as political vice president, was then responsible.

"Phillips is inappropriate as co-chair due to his inability to relate to large segments of the community," said Wilson. Dwyer quotes Phillips explaining why he believes he was not nominated, "I always thought Gab-

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riel Bustamente was Italian. It turns out he's Latin. Roger Coggan always likes Latin men...Roger Coggan did this to thwart me. Roger is a lawyer and a very slick one...Coggan knew I was destined to be co-chair...the Task Force to a man, knew it. Little Mario just happens to be Hispanic."

Apparently fearful of the kind of co-chair who hangs up on the press, and recalling Phillips's stated opposition to GLPATF's doing outreach to minority gays as a priority, the nominating committee chose to look elsewhere for co-chair candidates. But their failure to tell Phillips upfront why he was not nominated led to Stonewall's conviction that he was being blackballed out of spite by Coggan, a member of MECLA, which Stonewall may soon supplant as gay L.A.'s "power pack." Thus Stonewall leaders insist that the issue of outreach to lesbians and gays of color is a red herring, not a serious concern of the nominating committee or of Marich.

In Stonewall's April newsletter, editor Tom Collins (who recently joined GLPATF representing the Valley Business Alliance) states, "It is only too bad that some people—and yes, I *am* impugning their motives—would apparently sacrifice the Task Force on the altar of their own powergrabbing. Even worse...is that shrill cries of "racism" should be used to manipulate the situation for private purposes and personal gain."

"Unfortunately, the legitimate term 'people of color' was dishonestly misused by a political faction composed of people who were white, by and large, against their opponents in an overheated election campaign," said Phillips, reading from a prepared statement. "The Task Force has always had ethnic representation and no attempt has *ever* been made to exclude *anyone* on the basis of race. The real issue was competition over the office of co-chair."

Similar arguments have been made repeatedly by his supporters, and are probably sincerely believed. Perhaps such comments would seem more convincing if other equally relevant facts were not invariably omitted, for instance, the pact to remind only Phillips's supporters to be documented in strict accordance with the by-laws prior to the April meeting.

Insofar as Stonewall activists believe that some of Marich's group may be committed to inclusion of minority gays and issues, they seem also to genuinely believe that such a focus is an inappropriate usurpation of GLPATF's agenda. "The majority of these people have never done anything at all—nothing whatsoever—to deal with the Task Force agenda rather than their own or to accomplish *its* purposes rather than theirs," Collins writes.

Some who attended the March meeting felt that proof of this came when outreach to minorities was voted the primary goal of the Task Force on a motion by Marich. But Marich says that when a five-point list of the year's priorities was presented to GLPATF to approve, minority outreach was omitted. Marich's supporters voted to make outreach number one on the list to put on record their feeling that it had been most neglected and deserved immediate attention.

Nonetheless, such an action was bound to be misconstrued. Anglos become active in the movement to promote their civil rights as gays. While they pay lip service to other agendas and may, out of goodwill or guilt, divert some of their energy to other struggles, many feel ripped off when compelled to allocate significant effort to problems they did not become activists to address. Because lesbians and gays of color are inhibited in living healthy gay lives by racism as much as by homophobia, it is difficult to respond to the two "isms" as though they are unconnected. It feels diminishing to accept as legitimate the Anglo need for minorities to subordinate the battle against racism to the battle against homophobia when interacting with them.

Strategies for the Future

For social clubs, by-laws are a formality. But for coalitions, such as GLPATF, by-laws are treaties among allies whose shared interests are limited. Such by-laws must be carefully drafted and adhered to diligently. People of color need to pay scrupulous attention to these matters because sooner or later, when the priorities and resources of the coalition are in dispute, the by-laws are likely to be used by those most familiar with them to get their way.

It is therefore hard to understand why Marich's supporters came to the April meeting without their credentials in hand, given that they had been tipped off that the other side was gathering its documents. Naïveté under such circumstances is, at best, costly and at worst, fatal. One must wonder whether or not lesbians and gays of color are serious about protecting their interests when they choose not to prepare for a switch in tactics by their adversaries. It is, of course, legitimate to refuse to play a dirty game, if there is the willingness to stand on the sidelines and watch the action go by. But it is a waste of time to play hard ball and then throw the game.

Aside from sanctioning Stonewall's purge, a decision by Marich's coalition to found a new task force will tax the resources of minority-oriented organizations. These organizations have not only borne the responsibility of supplying the people of color whose presence helped legitimize GLPATF, but they have stretched themselves thin trying to respond to the same need in other predominantly Anglo organizations. When white members lose interest, their organizations have tended to allow their GLPATF membership to lapse. But when people of color burn out or move on, their absence causes gay coalitions to blanch noticeably. This makes minority-oriented organizations appear more indifferent or slipshod than they are, when in reality white organizations are not held to account for seldom recruiting people of color as their representatives. The solution to this ongoing problem will rarely lie in increasing the responsibilities carried by minority activists. Yet forming new organizations when old ones are unresponsive does just that.

Moreover, all gay organizations need to adjust to the fact that in a city, county and state soon facing re-apportionment, wherein people of color are rapidly becoming a majority, advancement of the gay cause requires that they be inclusive and responsive to ethnic concerns regardless of their agendas or levels of personal commitment. They also need to know that minority lesbians and gays are willing to use the growing leverage afforded them by changing demographics.

Finally, it is important to note that although this controversy has swirled around racial issues, the factions involved have *not* split exclusively along racial lines. Representatives of the GLAAD, LHR, AIDS Research and Education, the International Archives, Harvey Milk Democrats, the Peace and Freedom Party's Gay and Lesbian Caucus, USC's Gay and Lesbian Student Assembly and Mayor Tom Bradley's representative, along with other individuals, have been consistently and often courageously supportive of the need for inclusion in GLPATF. This is a fracas among uneasy allies who are fighting side-by-side in twin wars against homophobia and AIDS. There must be both respect for differences in tactics, and appreciation for cooperation.

Blk Community News

BWMT/LA Told: Hospice to Locate in South Central

By Mark Haile and Alan Smithee

LOS ANGELES—Addressing the Los Angeles chapter of Black and White Men Together (BWMT/LA) last month, Michael Weinstein, president of the AIDS Hospice Foundation (AHF), announced plans for AHF to establish a new hospice in South Central Los Angeles. The facility is to be located adjacent to the King-Drew Medical Center.

AHF currently operates Elysian Park's Chris Brownlie Hospice, named for an active member of BWMT/LA. The hospice, a residence for PWAs in the final stages of AIDS, will be the first opened in a black community in Los Angeles. Details about funding for the facility were not immediately available.

The Brownlie hospice is funded through a combination of government grants and private donations.

Weinstein's announcement came as part of a keynote adddress delivered at BWMT/LA's annual Installation Banquet. Installed as officers for the 1989-90 term were Guy Hubbard as black co-chair, René Seidel as white co-chair, secretary John Dick, treasurer Les Amer, and members-at-large Diamond Murray and Marc Denton.

Jewel Williams and Bobby Smith were given special awards at the dinner, held at the Hyatt Hotel in West Hollywood. Williams received the BWMT Lifetime Achievement Award "for tireless work in the lesbian and gay community." She was cited for her fundraising efforts on behalf of many organizations, and for frequently offering the Catch One, which she owns, as a site for meetings and events.

Bobby Smith, a longtime BWMT/LA member, was the third recipient of the Steven L. Whitfield Memorial Award, presented in memory of the first member of BWMT/LA to succumb to AIDS. Smith has served, along with Jewel Williams, on the board of the Minority AIDS Project since it was founded in 1985. He was also recently honored as the only openly gay man to be included among the *L.A. Weekly's* list of "Los Angeles Heroes of the 1980s," for his dedication to providing care and services to people with AIDS.

BWMT/LA Lifetime Achievement Award receipient and Catch One owner Jewel Williams with BWMT/LA co-chair Guy Hubbard.

CDC Lists March Stats on AIDS Cases in U.S.

ATLANTA (AP)—The latest statistics on AIDS in the United States as reported by the national Centers for Disease Control are reported below. These statistics are through March 1989, and have been rounded to the nearest whole percent. Cumulative totals are for AIDS cases reported since June 1981, and include 75 cases subsequently found to have occurred prior to that date.

Number of Cases

Total cases reported since June 1981: 90,990.
Cases, last 12 months: 21,103.
Total deaths: 52,435, or 58 percent of all cases.

Transmission Categories

Homosexual or bisexual males: 55,005, or 60 percent.
Intravenous drug abusers: 17,999, or 20 percent.
Homosexual male and drug abusers: 6,407, or 7 percent.
Heterosexual cases: 3,962, or 4 percent.
Transfusion or blood cases: 2,417, or 3 percent.
Hemophilia patients: 952, or 1 percent.
Children of parents with AIDS or at risk: 1,188, or 1 percent.
Other or undetermined transmission cause: 3,080, or 3 percent.

Race

Cases among whites: 51,987, or 57 percent.
Cases among blacks: 24,328, or 27 percent.
Cases among Hispanics: 13,811, or 15 percent.
Cases among Asians or Pacific Islanders: 540, or 1 percent.
Cases among American Indians or Alaskan natives: 107, or 0 percent.

Age

Childhood cases (under age 13): 1,489, or 2 percent.

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Group Plans Outreach to Lesbians of Color

SAN FRANCISCO—The planning committee for the Second West Coast Conference and Celebration of Old Lesbians [60 and older], announced the formation of a Women of Color Contact Committee. Its purpose is to make sure the special concerns of lesbians of all races and cultures are given attention both before and during the conference.

The program for the conference, which is now being developed, will include special interest workshops, "speak out" (open microphone) periods, arts, entertainment and other features.

The assembly is scheduled to be held August 4 through August 6, 1989, at San Francisco State University's new Conference Center. Interested lesbians of color can contact either Marge 415-724-3185 or Dottie 415-525-6198 or write to West Coast Celebration II, Box 31787, San Francisco CA 94131.

ACT-UP Plans Meeting

LOS ANGELES—The AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power/Los Angeles will host a "Day of Education" as the first of two spring events which focus on access to health care in the AIDS epidemic. The first event, which is being called "Pushed to the Limit: AIDS and the Health Care Crisis," will take place Saturday May 6, 1989 at 1:30 p.m. in West Hollywood's Plummer Park.

According to the group, the afternoon will consist of panel presentations and informal discussions, and "will address the state of the epidemic, barriers to care, and possible alternatives to the current fragmented and inefficient health care system."

Specialists will present the latest epidemiological information about AIDS within the gay male and people of color communities, and will discuss treatment options, private and public health care coverage, alternatives to conventional care, and the experience with comprehensive health care plans in the United States and other countries.

NAN Announces Execs

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The board of directors of the National AIDS Network (NAN) announced recently the members of its newly elected seven-member executive committee.

Richard Dunne, executive director of Gay Men's Health Crisis Inc., of New York, remains as chairman until June. The chair then will shift to Timothy Wolfred, Ph.D., executive director of San Francisco AIDS Foundation.

Rashidah Lorraine Hassan, R.N., co-founder and executive director of Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues of Philadelphia, is the new vice-chair of the board. Eric Engstrom, executive director of the Minneapolis-based Minnesota AIDS Project, is secretary of the board. Jim Graham, administrator of the Whitman-Walker Clinic of Washington, D.C. is the board's treasurer.

Other executive committee members are Marie M. Saint CyrDelpe, M.S.W., executive director of the Women and AIDS Resource Network of New York, and Phill Wilson, founder and chair of the Los Angeles-based Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum.

BGLLF Slates Benefit

LOS ANGELES—The Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum is sponsoring a benefit theater outing to see "Harlem Suite," starring Maurice Hines and Melba Moore. The event, which includes a champagne reception following the performance with both stars in attendance, will take place at the Pantages Theater May 19, 1989 at 8 p.m.

A portion of the proceeds will be used to help fund the effort to bring openly gay black Simon Nkoli, an anti-apartheid activist, to Los Angeles.

"Simon Nkoli has committed his life and in fact placed his life at great risk to free both gay and lesbian black people in South Africa," said Phill Wilson, BGLLF chair. "We are humbled at the opportunity to sponsor this benefit as the first step in bringing him to Los Angeles."

"Nkoli's struggles are testament to the courage and spirit of gay and lesbian and black people around the world," Wilson added.

Nkoli is founder of the Gay and Lesbian Organization of Whittingham and co-founder of the Gay Association of South Africa.

Adodi, BEBASHI Plan Weekend Philly Retreat

PHILADELPHIA—Adodi Philadelphia, the support group for black gay men established in 1986, has announced plans for its second biannual retreat, "Self-Empowerment in the Age of AIDS," to be held Friday, July 21 through Sunday, July 23, 1989 at Fellowship Farm in Pottstown, Pennsylvania. The retreat is being co-sponsored by Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues, a Philadelphia-based AIDS education and information agency.

"These are extremely difficult times for all black gay men in this country," stated Clifford Rawlins, Adodi founder. "While racism and homophobia continue to be major obstacles to be dealt with, the devastation that AIDS is creating in our community makes our situation all the more critical."

"The primary purpose of these retreats," he adds, "is to provide an opportunity for black gay men, especially any of us who have tested positive or are living with an AIDS diagnosis to come together in a supportive environment to share our feelings and to learn from each other. By the end of the retreat, we hope that everyone will leave having enhanced their skills for improving the quality of their lives."

The anticipated 100 participants will be offered a variety of workshops and experiential exercises dealing with AIDS and other health-related matters, spirituality, creativity, culture, relationships, personal financial management, building political power and legal issues. A grant application is currently being considered by a Philadelphia community foundation to provide a stipend of $250 to each workshop facilitator.

In addition to the recreational activities afforded by the facilities and rural setting at Fellowship Farm, participants can also enjoy a dance party and a special performing arts program scheduled as part of the retreat.

The first Adodi retreat, "Self-Esteem—Loving Ourselves through the 80s," was held Thanksgiving weekend 1987 and attracted 50 men from Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, Georgia, New York, Illinois, Virginia and Mississippi.

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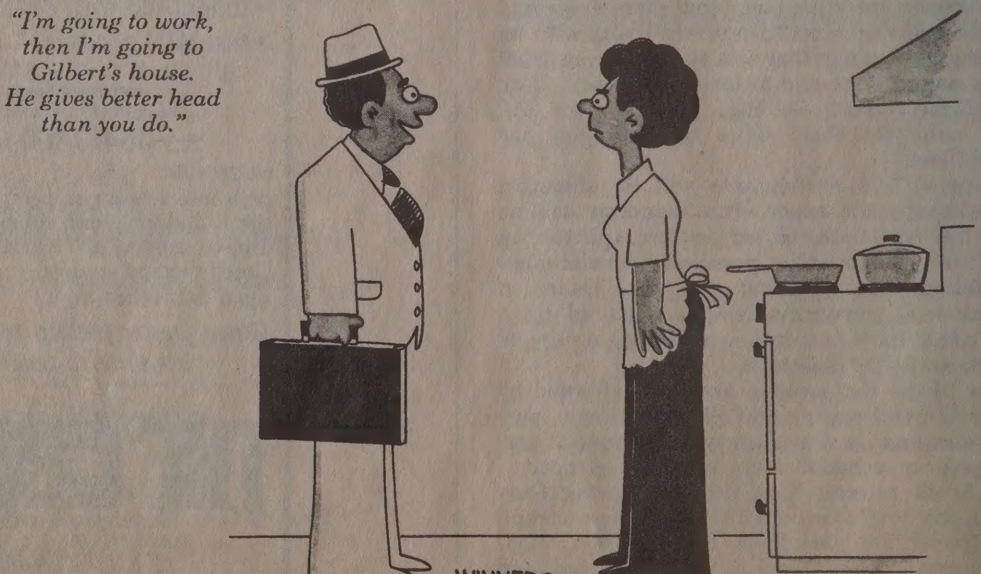
Read My Lips

By Preston G. Guider

SUNDAYS IN SPRING ARE MEANT FOR strolls in the park, fancy new bonnets and declarations of love. So nobody should have been surprised, but everybody *was* when, during a recent Sunday morning church service, one of the worshipers began telling fellow churchgoers that Cupid's arrow had finally pierced his heart. As it happens, the church was **Unity Fellowship** in L.A., the man was **Carl Bean**, Unity's minister and probably America's most famous black AIDS activist, and the announcement that he had found love was delivered from the pulpit. No one was more surprised by the public revelation than Rev's intended, **Eugene Cornelius**, past prez of Chicago's NCBLG chapter, who was literally so swept away with the oohs, aahs and congratulations of the congregation that Rev was left on bended knee, and no one remembers how or if 'Nelius accepted the pastor's proposal. Some said it wasn't the proper place, time or manner. Maybe not, but it was bold, beautiful and very, very black. Love on, Rev!...In New York, Soho's New Museum just finished showcasing the controversial oils of **Robert Colescott**, now *en route* to Seattle for a May 20 through July 15 exhibit. Colescott, who hails from Oakland, studied in Paris and did time in Egypt, has infuriated some African Americans with his satiric portrayals of blacks from old ads *à la* **Aunt Jemima** and **Uncle Ben**. Honestly, how would black folks ever have survived if we hadn't had more sense of humor than the current Guardians of Political Correctitude are willing to allow us nowadays? Mama always said, "Laughter heals, children!"...Brains—and egos—are bustin' out all over. Three metropoli now have self-styled black, gay "think tanks"; Chicago's **Group Dialogue**, L.A.'s **Salon Noir** and D.C.'s **African American Collective**. Why don't y'all get off your precious brains—er, buns—and *do* something. Better yet, just get *over* yourselves...Also in Chicago, friends tell us, is the hottest African American same-sex scene seen. **Jeffrey's Pub** and the **Rialto** are the two friendliest hangouts, but the **411 Club** and **Martin's Den** have more dance space and more women on the premises, while **Club LaRay** wins the trophy for the being the biggest black gay dance bar in the Midwest, with multiple everything—shows, videos and card games. Among the private clubs (in descending order of female membership), **Executive Sweet, Friends, Inc.** and **Chieftains** are still going strong...But in Eve's half-eaten, sin-ridden Big Apple, street scene patrons are all adither since the **Metropolitan** (aka the **Opera House**) was demolished and some of the 3rd Avenue pornshops closed down. Okay, for those of you who *insist* on living dangerously, we'll spill this T once only: the bookstores on 42nd Street, and the kind of traffic they draw, are still flourishing, even though the **Barracks** baths closed two years ago. But the **Mt. Morris** tubs in Harlem are still overflowing (grab your rubbers!). At the **Ascot Theatre** on the Grand Concourse in the Bronx, hets head upstairs, gays go down, and watch what you grab in the backroom; *les filles de joie* are as apt to be conducting business in the dark with their johns as are hustlers with theirs. Lunchtime near City Hall is said to be delicious and nutritious downstairs in **St. Ann's Bookstore**, if you watch what you eat. Remember: safe sex, guys...Out in L.A., it was lovely running into **Jerry** and **Roger** at **Griff's**, 'cuz the former so seldom lets the latter out. But there they were, cooing and growling at each other as in years of yore...It's been such an unexpected hassle trying to get some of L.A.'s gay establishments to carry *BLK* that it was a surprise and a pleasure when **One Way** owner **Brett Murray** not only welcomed and encouraged us but invited our readership in to view his new, specially commissioned **Tom of Finland** poster, which features both black and white male figures...Finally, kisses and kudos to **Jewel Williams** who always shows what can be done if you care. When you walk into Jewel's **Catch One** you practically stumble over the **Minority AIDS Project**'s info booth and staff. No safe sex lit buried in dark corners, or brochures tossed atop cigarette machines at the Catch. This lady means to save lives—and does!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BLK needs a librarian to construct an index of articles that have appeared in previous issues. No experience necessary. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (TF)

Registered nurse. Full time. No experience necessary, but AIDS-related experience helpful. Call Lauren at 213-936-4949, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Or send resume to Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019. (6)

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Messenger/driver needed for consortium of three companies. Full time days. Beeper provided. Must be dependable, have economical car and clean driving record. Bring proof of insurance and DMV printout to interview. Call Bobby. 213-667-2549. (6)

AIDS Nursing Care: RNs, LVNs, CNAs, all shifts. Contact P. Gatto, Brownlie Hospice, 1300 Scott, Los Angeles, CA 90026 or call 213-482-2500. (6)

The Body Black wants black models for upcoming calendar. Good looks/body a must. (No frontal nudity.) Also need nude models. Picture I.D./phone required. Call 213-255-9853. (6)

ORGANIZATIONS

AIDS, ARC, HIV+ social group. 6-9 p.m. Wednesdays. Castro area, San Francisco. Make friends or find a lover. No $. Free personals list. Call Michael. 415-255-0614. (6)

Secular Recovery Anonymous/12 Step†, 11117 Victory Blvd., N. Hollywood. 818-955-6538. (13)

Seventh-Day Adventist Kinship, an organization of gay/lesbian Adventists and friends, offers worship services and potlucks, social and recreational opportunities, ongoing AIDS support from a spiritual point-of-view, and monthly newsletter. Call 213-661-0784. (7)

San Diego AIDS Project craves black input. Call 619-543-0300. (7)

Nechama Jewish AIDS education, advocacy, referral. 213-653-8313. (6)

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PERSONALS—EASTERN U.S.

Where have all the older GBM gone? Sincere GWM seeks friend/lover. Box 502, Kenmore, Boston, MA 02215. (8)

GBM, 30, 6'2", 210 lbs., masculine, monogamous, nice-looking, New York City, seeks Puerto Rican, Dominican, South American man, 30-40, nationwide for friendship, relationship. Write with photo. Michael Guthrie, Box 684083, Corona-A, NY 11368. (6)

Attractive GWM, deep blue eyes, beard and moustache, 5'9", seeks masculine GBM who knows himself. Honest, sincere and a good sense of humor. Write with photo. Bruce, Box 2291, Meriden, CT 06450. (8)

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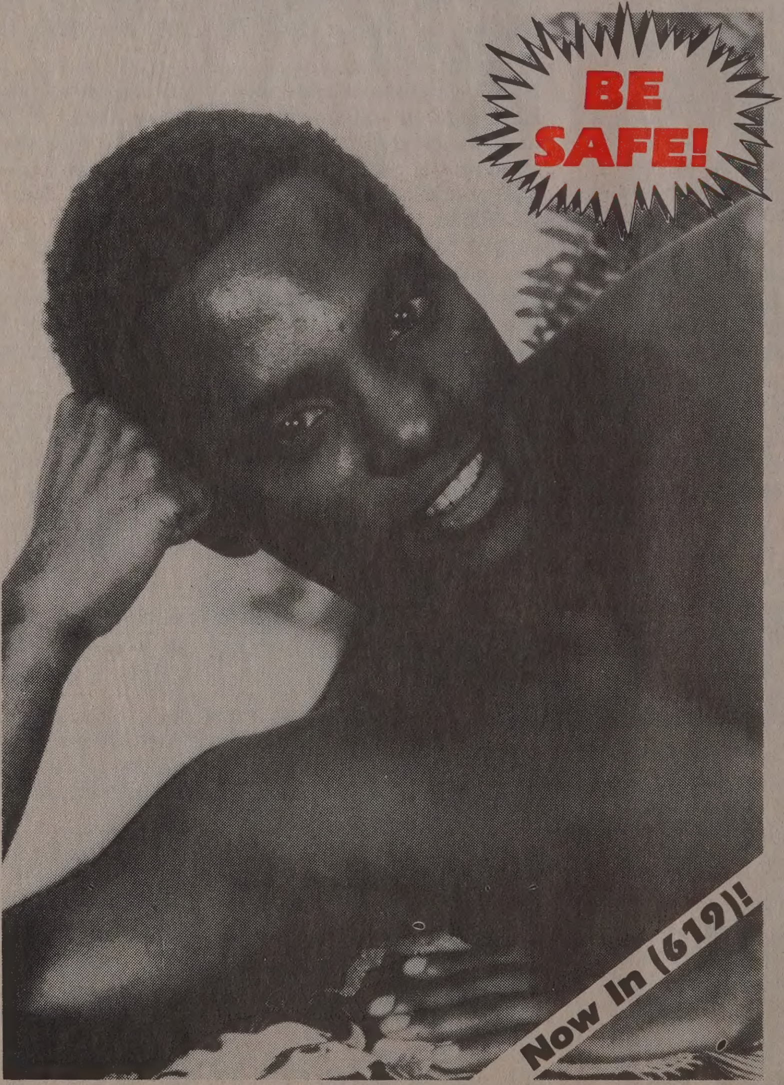
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PERSONALS—CENTRAL U.S.

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Attractive GWM, 27, seeks handsome, straight-appearing GBM. I'm tall dark and slim; professional; equally enjoy home and nightlife. Prefer tall and muscular, fun-loving guys. Box 486, Danville, IL 61834. (8)

Gay white mid-westerner, 38, 5'11", 170 lbs., looking for black men for correspondence, friendship and safe sex. Write to Tom, Box 1041, Rapid City, SD 57709. (8)

WM, 50, seeks BM, any age, for sincere intimate relationship. No drugs. F/A/P. No G. Anxious to please you and be friends. Bill, Box 9645, Minneapolis, MN 55458. (8)

Passionate (safe) sex? You: 18-40, hung 8+ and thick for multi-orgasms. Me: 35, 5'10", professional. Travel Chicago. Box 10361, Milwaukee, WI 53210. (10)

PERSONALS—WESTERN U.S.

Athletic BM needs top guys 4 hot fun, no games. 213-851-7325. (8)

A very handsome Middle-Eastern male, 32, 5'9", 150 lbs., black hair, brown eyes, olive complexion, trim, masculine, healthy, intelligent, romantic, candlelit, sports, music, down-to-earth, and very discreet. Looking for one-to-one relationship with a black or Latino male, who is safe, sincere, honest, masculine and top. If interested, please call at 818-242-3636 after 6 p.m. (6)

Seeking GM, any race, 18-28, under size 30 waist. Must want sincere, lasting, intense, monogamous, sweet, kind, loving, caring relationship with feelings, not material things and muscles. I'm white, 35, stocky, 5'11", 190. I'll send letter, photo. Very educated, warm, multi-talented. Box 71850, Los Angeles, CA 90071. (6)

I am a 26 year old slightly heavyset black man with a handsome face who is totally straight, but craves a rough and tough black stud to break me in the gay life. I am financially secure, have a nice house and car and also a nice girlfriend, but I'm missing out on something. I would only go with a "black man" who acts black. No "oreos." I also will only go with an attractive man. No fat out-of-shapes or drug users. I am very passionate. I have yet to find a man who can control my high sexual needs. I only want black men who are 10" or more. No sissies or girl-acting men. If you are 25-35 years old and are over 5'9" tall and fit the bill, write me. John, Box 8340, Inglewood, CA 90308. (6)

GWM, 53, balding, 6', nice tool, 170, dom., workout, safe, seeks 25-45, well-built. Occupant, Box 4823, N. Hollywood, CA 91607. (8)

HIV+ men to meet HIV+ men. Send SASE to S. M. Webber, 3918 Beverly Blvd. #305, Los Angeles, CA 90004. (11)

Looking for dark, hairy, tall, attractive, nice build, black or Latin-type, between 30-50 years. You must be professional, spiritual, sincere and romantic, and sexually be G/A or F/A/P (safe sex). Nipple play is nice. I am tall, slim, 6'2", 170, 36 years, blond, tan, green-eyed, health-oriented, nice build, G/P. Exchange of photos a must. Larce, 2407 Wilshire Blvd., Box 285, Santa Monica, CA 90403. (7)

Affectionate W/M, 38, 5'3", 128#, blond/green, seeking G/B,W man in his mid-30s who has capacity for love and commitment, educated, self-sufficient, healthy, attractive and willing to share all with his equal. Photo and phone to Box 33834, San Diego, CA 92103. (6)

GWM, mid-years bodybuilder stud (body of 25 weight-lifter ...better!) "great" pecs, wild in the sack (make you groan and burn!), masculine rugged-looking, hot, seeks GBM, bodybuilder or surf body (no plumps!). Photo/-phone. Danny, Box 11658 Chandler Blvd., N. Hollywood, CA 91601. I dig massaging (using oil!) (7)

TLC for gentle BM. Want a natural high from a warm, loving guy? Tall, slim WM, 43, HIV negative, seeks slim, or average built BM under 45. Interests: travel, photography, classical, gospel music, the arts. No drugs. Safe & sane sex. Write 11020 Ventura Blvd., Box 118, Studio City, CA 91604. (6)

Good-looking black athlete, 31, top, masculine, muscular, moustache, seeks younger, masculine, muscular, randy white boys who are bottom, streetwise and live for safe, clean fun. Serious replies only. 619-291-7834. (8)

Handsome GWM, 35, tall muscular, lean, seeks very muscular black man for passion with future. William 415-431-2656. (6)

White, very good-looking, 42 (look 30s), 6'1", 175 lbs., blond, beard, needs black male that loves to give great head. Michael, c/o MJT, Box 891, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272. (7)

Sensuous attractive mature WM can entertain friendly guy any race, any color, 40s or younger, for exciting hot safe encounters. You won't be disappointed. Kenn, Box 3632, Anaheim, CA 92803-3632. (7)

Good-looking, GBM, 6'4", 36, 220 lbs., fair, bearded, professional, stalking articulate cuddle-bear, beefy and bearded (well, a moustache'll do) who will savor and succor, challenge and cherish, explore frontiers and frottage. Nothing easy sought or offered here, though a bed buddy would appeal: I'm uncertain if I'm focused or generous enough to be anyone's lover. Domestic, I'm not. Being intense, analytical and verbal, similar types attract; others beware. But I do love to laugh. If I sound like the stray pet you've been looking for, write Alex, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-237, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (7)

Black, 47, hot, safe, vers., 5'9", 168, wants 1-on-1 relationship. Home in Vegas. Call 702-362-1407. 9 a.m.-9 p.m. (7)

I love dark skin. Mature GWM, 65, seeks caring other for 1-to-1, possible lifemate. Healthy, shy, versatile, nonsmoker. Love books, films, music, sharing TLC. Let's explore potentials. Looks unimportant, character is. Letter/photo to Gene, 328 N. Ave. 59, Los Angeles, CA 90042. (6)

GM couple looking for GBM couple. Herman, Box 19543, Los Angeles, CA 90019. (7)

Attractive, married, South American, uncut, healthy, good shape, shy, 36, Br/Gr, 5'5", 150, needs to meet well-hung, masculine black top: TLC, no drugs, safe, discreet, your place only. Write with phone: JP, Box 3097, Holly-

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TWICE THE ACTION OF ANY OTHER
976
HUGE
$2.00 PLUS TOLL, IF ANY

wood, CA 90078. (7)

Blond swimmer wants young, thin, insatiable top. Don 213-281-6138. (7)

Butch GWM, 51, seeks GR/A black SFV buddy. 818-766-6033. (6)

Blond hunk seeks young thin top. Box 75441, LA 90075(6)

European, bi, trim, safe, seeks thick or uncut-endowed. Box 2733, Los Angeles, CA 90078. (6)

White, handsome, masculine bodybuilder, 38, 5'10", 185 muscular pounds seeks very big, masculine, muscular, dominant black man for hot, safe sessions. Write Keith, 732 Westmount Dr., W. Hollywood, CA 90069. (7)

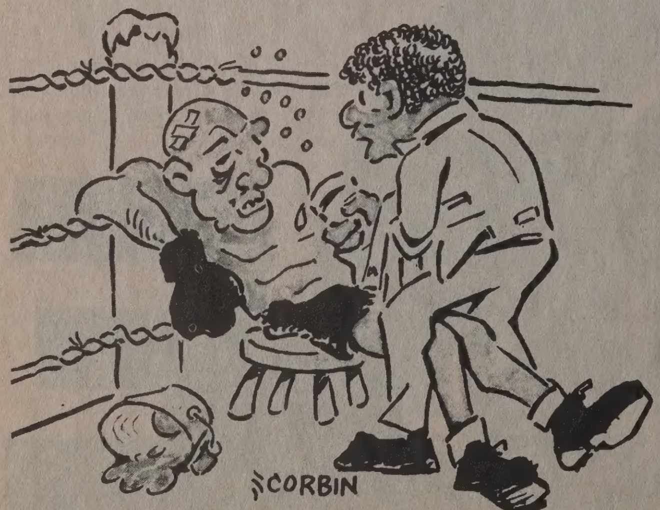
Puerto Rican, 35, 5'6", 135 lbs., seeking daytime masculine black-Latins hung fat to please. Willie 213-657-2539. (6)

Seek nine inches plus for safe sex. I'm blond, blue, 5'11", 160, 30, tanned. 213-854-0779. (8)

GWM, 50 years old, great shape, nice smooth body, bottom fem. and passive, seeks top, dominant male for steady friendship at my home in northwest San Fernando Valley. A nice, spiritual person like me. No booze, drugs, marrieds or hassle. (I am not a switch-hitter. (Me Jane, you Tarzan, a must.) If interested, please call me at 818-999-1897. Andra. (E)

Nude talent. Men 18-25 for X-rated video work. Call talent agent 213-465-1317. (E)

Educated BM, 20s, seeks other masculine, mature, brassy, intelligent black males for friendship and fun. Looking for individuals who are well-rounded and enjoy the most of what life has to offer. Open-minded, adaptability a must. No effeminates! Respond with letter/-photo. Photo will be returned. Box 18A255, Los Angeles, CA 90018. (E)



"Maybe you shouldn't have called him a 'nigger faggot'."

HOW TO GET INTO THE BLK MARKET FREE

•**Personal ads** of 10 words or less are free. More than 10 words, the rate is 25 cents per additional word.
•**Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 5 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.
•**All other ads** take the rate of 25 cents per word.
•**Box number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK box for $5 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.
•**Replying to a BLK box.** Only letters may be sent to BLK boxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

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BLK Classifieds
Box 83912
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

•**Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Personal and employment ads may run a maximum of 3 times, and then must be renewed. Be sure to sign the authorization form. *Ads not accepted over the telephone.* We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads. We may also reject ads that advertise or solicit sexual acts which are considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. All telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $1. If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad copy. This information is strictly confidential and will not appear in your ad.

Please complete and sign the following:

Name____________________________
Address__________________________
City____________ State______ Zip______
Phone (_____) ____________________

I certify that I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK.

Signed___________________________

Text of the ad (use separate sheet if needed):

____
____
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____

Deadline for June issue: May 22, 1989.

Figure cost of ad:

____ words at 25¢ (10 free if personal) $__________
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Cost to run ad one month $__________
Number of insertions __________
Total cost of ads $__________
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BLK Box at $5 per month $__________
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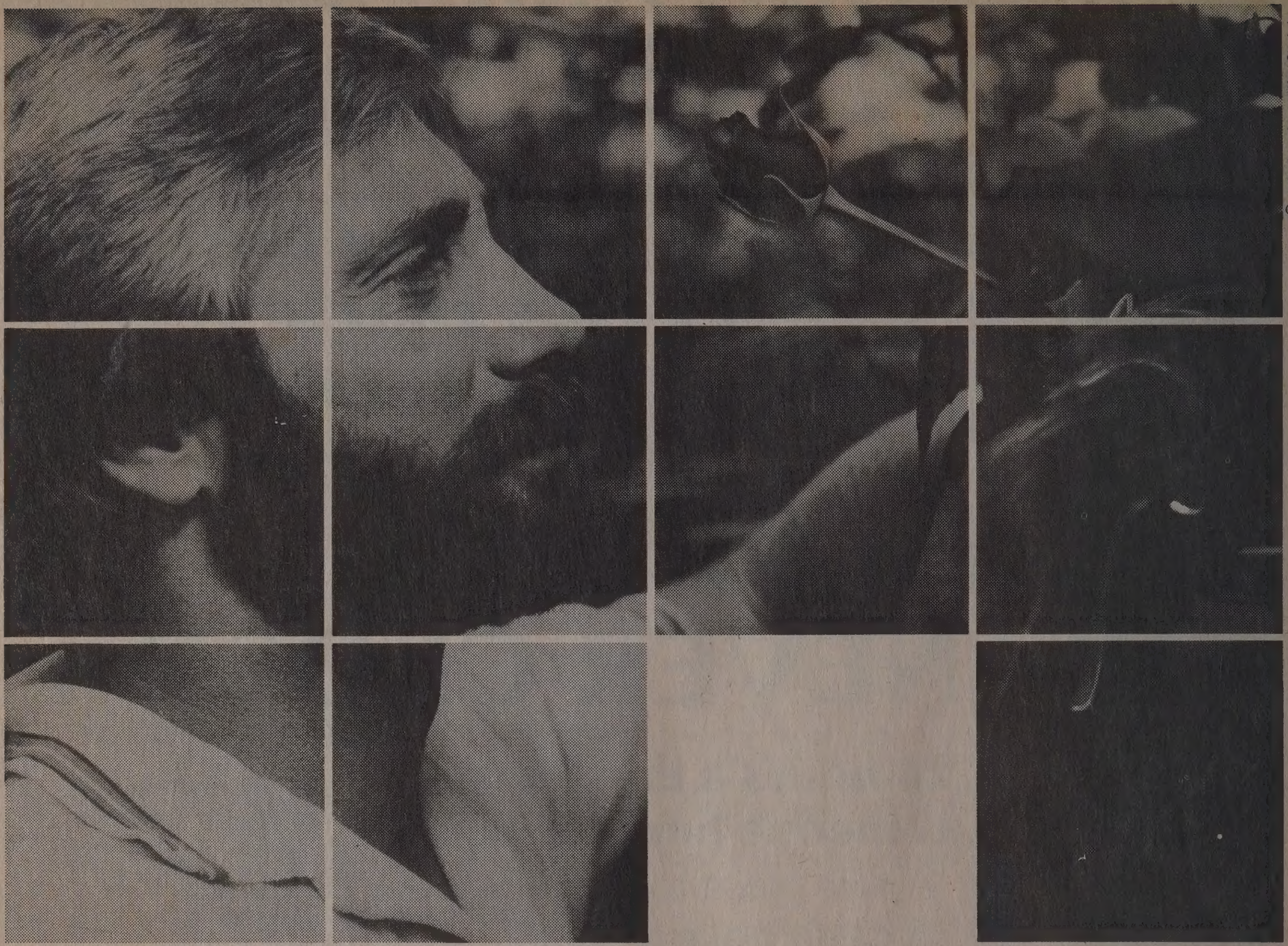

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We treat people not parts.

Keith Medical Group, HIV specialists within a family practice environment, is composed of highly qualified medical practitioners, seasoned technicians and supportive staff. *All committed to treating the whole person, not a series of parts.*

Our expertise has proved that effective HIV/AIDS treatment requires the interaction of many disciplines: Hematology/Oncology, Infectious Disease, Pulmonary Medicine, Gastroenterology, Ophthalmology, Neuropsychology, Nutritional Therapy, Social Work and complete laboratory facilities.

And we have this most comprehensive multispecialty team. All together. With a single dedication. **You.**

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THE NATIONAL BLACK LESBIAN AND GAY NEWSMAGAZINE

BLK

Vol. 3, No. 8
Whole No. 33
August 1991

Young, Gifted and Fierce

Join *Ms.* DIONNE WARWICK and BISHOP CARL BEAN

COMING HOME 4

For Friends

ANNUAL GOSPEL BENEFIT

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1991

Shrine Auditorium

Doors open 6:30 p.m. ★ *Curtain at 7:00 p.m.*

GENERAL ADMISSION: *$10, $15, $25* *VIP* **SEATING:** *$100*

We invite everyone to come and experience an evening of foot-stomping, hand-clapping music . . . that breaks down all barriers, providing comfort, support and healing for all.

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This year we honor

The Unforgettable

Ms. Natalie Cole

And from the World of Gospel,

we honor:

The First Lady of Gospel

Ms. Tramaine Hawkins

The Gospel Legend

Cassietta George

The World Renown

Pentacostal Community Choir

and Singer & Music Director

Extraordinaire

Henry Jackson

We are also

honoring our very own

Champion of Fairness and Equality

Senator Diane E. Watson

WORD UP

BY LEON MILLER

THE SUMMER OF OUR DISCONTENT

Remember Donna Summer? Remember when the disco diva dissed the community calling gay men "sinners" and saying that AIDS was "a divine ruling"?

In an attempt to put the still lingering controversy behind her, Summer asked composer Paul Jabara to create an apologetic response in song. Although Donna liked the tune, and recorded the song, she left it off her new album.

Guess those bars that have banned Donna Summer oldies from their jukeboxes will have to keep up their embargoes a little longer.

And speaking of embargoes, remember the boycott against Coors?

It seems a worker at the Coors plant in Golden, Colo. turned the wrong valve and sent at least 155,000 gallons of beer into the adjacent Clear Creek, killing 3,000 fish.

AS LONG AS THE CLOSET DOORS ARE CLOSED

Rita Dyson, of the Black and Latino Multicultural Book Center in Pasadena, Calif. recently returned copies of several different issues of BLK we had sent to her—with permission—for free distribution at her store. A note which accompanied the returns stated, "No interest. Thank you."

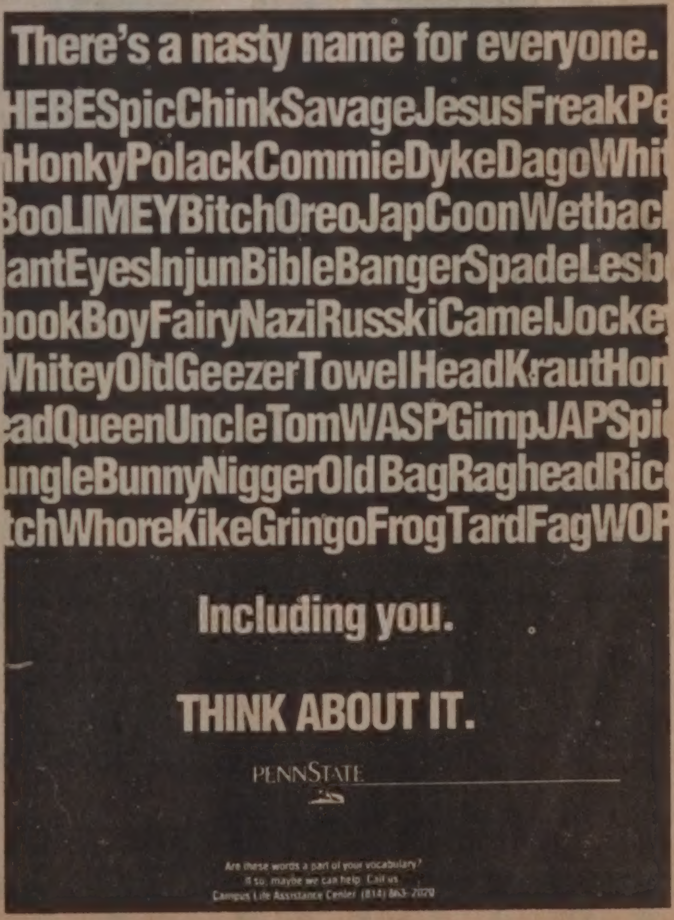
I called Dyson and we talked for quite a while. She gave the usual litany of homophobic justifications: parents come to her store, children could see the material, black boys already have enough "problems," people should keep their sexuality quiet, there are too many black women and not enough eligible black men, people aren't born "that way" and homosexuals actively "recruit" unsuspecting straights.

The Black and Latino Multicultural Book Center is located at 23 N. Mentor Ave., Pasadena, Calif. 91106. Their telephone number is 818-792-0117.

NASTY NAMES FOR EVERYONE

The fifth Penn State University poster developed in the past four years to address issues of diversity on the campus is a listing of all the bad words under the heading "There's a nasty name for everyone."

It's simple, and hopefully, effective.



There's a nasty name for everyone.

HEBESpicChinkSavageJesusFreakPe
HonkyPolackCommieDykeDagoWhi
ooLIMEYBitchOreoJapCoonWetbac
antEyesInjunBibleBangerSpadeLesb
ookBoyFairyNaziRusskiCamelJocke
hiteyOldGeezerTowelHeadKrautHon
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ungleBunnyNiggerOldBagRagheadRic
chWhoreKikeGringoFrogTardFagWO

Including you.

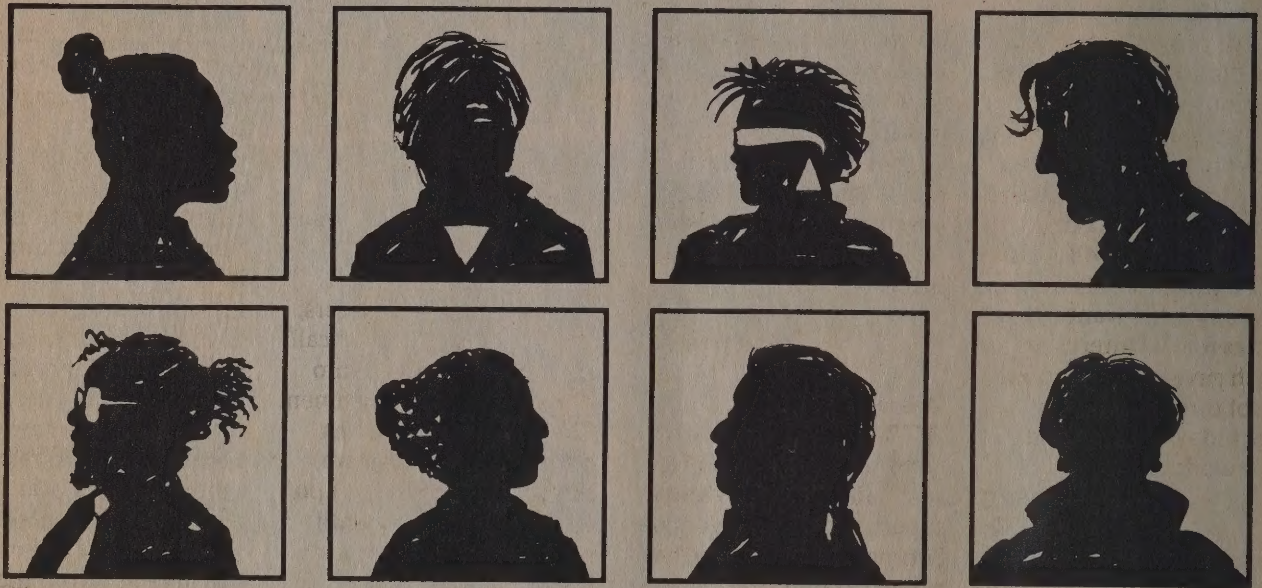
THINK ABOUT IT.

PENNSTATE

Are these words a part of your vocabulary?
If so, maybe we can help. Call us.
Campus Life Assistance Center (814) 863-2020

PUT PRIDE IN YOUR LIFE

Recovery Has Many Faces.



There is often great isolation in feeling different, in being different. It can be painful. Addictions can hide the pain - for a while. But at a great cost. At Pride Institute, we are here to help you. We affirm your differences - in color, gender, race, sexual orientation - and support your recovery.

▽PRIDE INSTITUTE

the inpatient/outpatient chemical dependency treatment center exclusively for lesbians, gay men and bisexuals. accredited by JCAHO.

TRANSPORTATION ARRANGED, AIRFARE MAY BE PROVIDED

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BLK MAIL

JOE SIMMONS: PRO AND CON

Dear Editor:

Thanks for that wonderful interview article with Joe Simmons. He is my most loved black actor in porno movies. I've caught him live in New York a couple of times. I do not have the guts to walk up to him and say I love your shows or videos.

He has a lovely body and should continue taking good care of himself. I also have a couple of his movies.

At any rate I want to say thanks for the interview which gave us more about one of the hottest porn stars today. Keep up the good work, Joe.

Gerry
Jacksonville, Fla.

Dear Editor:

Whomever your appointee is, needs to have their head examined. If they could not take out the time to, review your record or even question your interests in the betterment of the community at hand.

In the past, five pages of BLK reading material has been most informative and educational! How someone allowed you to waste good paper on a classic Uncle Tom, I'll never know. I wonder, was Tom given in the Mapplethorpe's *Black Book*, due to the fact he is a Tom or he just looked like a Tom? Hm? In the 30 plus films I've seen Simmons in, not once, once mind you has this thing bent over for a brother—a white boy, yes several—but not a black man.

In closing I'd really enjoy the entertainment in your magazine. Yet, if this type of stupidity continues, I'll seek other sources of reading material. Yes, the lose of one or two readers will not harm you or your paper. In time it will harm the community and your job.

In the name of black-minds and beauty I bid you peace, good luck, love and high hopes your act comes together soon.

Denique Clark
New York, N.Y.

Dear Editor:

First of all; hats off to Alan Bell for doing a fine interview and a superb introduction on Joe Simmons. Certainly he has a knack for putting people in the best light.

But since no one else is bringing up certain issues some of us have the responsibility in broaching certain topics. Things that concern us—black gay men —because if we don't consider our needs and truths important no one else will.

I'm writing in regards to your interview with porn star Joe Simmons in your June 1991 issue. It's interesting the way you see a person afar and you imagine them to be the person you wish them to be. However an interview cracks the illusion as they tell about their life, likes, dislikes, habits, dreams and observances.

This interview reminded me of another interview *B.F.P. Tribune* did with black porn star Tory Bell. These interviews read similar in certain ways. Uncanny? They deny being gay but they do gay porn flicks. They have never had a lover, not looking for one yet they have had girlfriends and have not ruled out marriage. They do things to get $ from the gay community but don't take gays seriously.

What does this say about we as black gay men?

We allow these: trade, bisexual, mess-arounders, straight, whatever they call themselves, to come into our bars and cruise women. They make porn movies and photo shots that we buy and they make no apology that this is only until something better comes along.

If Mr. Simmons doesn't have need for a lover and as the interviewer asked "Not even boyfriends or short term affairs?" then what need do we have for him? I don't know how other black men feel but this is how I feel about it.

No, Mr. Simmons you cannot bring your fine as all outdoors black ass to the peep shows and porn mags of America and tell us you don't have time to even take one of us seriously. What are you waiting on or looking for? Right after your interview is the story of "D" Cannon a black man who won International Mr. Leather 1991. But I guess he's not good enough for you because you're a "rebel." A rebel without a heart?

Some serious dialogue is going to have to be initiated because when our most

"Uh, oh. Got any rubbers?"

intelligent charismatic black men each choose to be an autonomous nation then what does that say about the potential just waiting to happen but won't because....

Yet as usual none of us escape being black. Look at us. Joe talked about the blatant racism in the porn industry even against top draws such as himself. Isn't it strange he can put all of this behind him and still identify himself as all-American? He still wants to work with whites and doesn't have time for one of us.

He says he travels a lot and that would get in the way of a relationship. I say thank God for the postal service and the telephone company. And quality time.

A question I would have asked Joe is; When you're up against racism such as, "We can't put you on the cover of our magazine because you're black," do you unconsciously fault other blacks who are lagging behind as the reason for your being discriminated against?

I don't mean to cast aspersions but a lot of us are running away from ourselves. There is a thing called a black connection—it's soul, it's being and it's black men loving black men. Because of our own oppression and homophobia our interconnection has been hidden from us and the truth is a lot of us are dying inside and don't know why.

There are myriad roads we can take that promise victory if the challange is met but our hearts only ask we come home to ourselves, first. Then we can conquer the world. Which I'm sure men like Joe Simmons and "D" Cannon want to do anyway. Peace.

Michael Douglas
Houston, Tex.

AN APPALLING ABOMINATION

Dear Editor:

As president of the Minority Business Association, I feel that it is not in the best of interest to remain silent on the issue of bill AB 101.

The thought of the possibility of homosexuals being legally recognized as minorities appalls me. And the fact that two black politicians, namely Diane Watson and Curtis Tucker support this bill is sickening.

Since when does a chosen lifestyle justify calling someone a minority under the same definition given to minorities who have had to suffer and die to receive rights, that we could not originally have because of something we had no control over: the color of our skin!

Our organization will be planning a march with local businesses and churches opposed to the passage of this bill in the very near future in the West Hollywood area. We will also keep in mind, come the next election, the stand taken by Senator Watson, and Assemblyman Tucker.

For a country built on the slogan, "In God We Trust," I sometimes wonder what are we coming to.

Homosexuality is an abomination to God and most Americans, but if we sit back and do nothing, this abomination will be the downfall of life as we know it. I trust you will publish this letter in your next publication.

James L. Thomas
Inglewood, Calif.

BLK

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Tecnhical Note: BLK is composed largely in Utopia Regular, Bold and Black and Helvetica Black Condensed using WordPerfect 5.1 on an Altos 386 Series 500. It is output in PostScript on an Apple LaserWriter IINT and printed web offset.

ON THE COVER: Pomo-Afro-Homos. Photo by Darius Blair.

BLK PEOPLE

LOS ANGELES Jackie Gelfand has been appointed the Director of Youth Services for the Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center.

DALLAS David Wilson, just recently named Mr. Dallas All-American 1992, became first alternate in the Mr. Texas All-American 1992 contest.

NEW YORK David Rousseve, who performed recently as part of the Los Angeles and San Francisco program "Black Choreographers Moving Towards the 21st Century," with his autobiographical dances pieces, was profiled in the *Advocate.*

OAKLAND Pomo Afro star Bernard Branner was M.C. at the East Bay benefit premiere showing of *Paris Is Burning.*

HONOLULU Audre Lorde, recuperating nicely from her chemotherapy, traveled to the Hawaiian islands to view the sun's eclipse in July.

LOS ANGELES Psychologist Don Norman is resting comfortably at home on a doctor-ordered vacation following minor back surgery.

NEW YORK Eric Stephen Booth, author of the play *Je Ne Regrette Rien,* was one of 18 to win a $1500 Bronx Council on the Arts BRIO award.

LOS ANGELES Poet and performance artist Michelle T. Clinton and painter and performance artist Marcus Kuiland-Nazario (with his "sister," Carmen), were among the speakers on political correctness at the Lesbian and Gay Rights Chapter of the ACLU.

ST LOUIS Diedre McCalla performed at the Twist on July 12, meeting first with fans at WestEnd Way.

LOS ANGELES Lyle Ashton Harris presents his photography in a group show, "Presenting Rearwards," at the Rosamund Felsen Gallery through Sept 7.

LOS ANGELES Jewel Thaïs-Williams celebrates Catch-A-Burger's first anniversary this month.

WASHINGTON The most widely read African-American syndicated columnist, Carl Rowan, has come down squarely in favor of lesbians and gays serving in the military.

SEATTLE J.J. Jackson has been promoted to Regional Manager of Hamburger Mary's, the restaurant and bar chain.

ATLANTA Maurice O'Brien Franklin is National Director of the National AIDS Awareness Program of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference.

WASHINGTON Spreading the word in the black and Latino communities about AIDS is Larry Spivey through his now popular safe sex home parties.

SAN DIEGO Rev. Delores Berry held a Spiritual Renewal Weekend at MCC-San Diego.

WASHINGTON Ernest Hopkins, the representative of the D.C. Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gay Men, has been elected co-chair of the Domestic Partnership Coalition.

SAN FRANCISCO Essex Hemphill, Marlon Riggs and Alan Miller read from their own work as well as other contributors to their book, *Brother to Brother,* in a benefit July 27 hosted by the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention.

SEATTLE Sherry Harris, lesbian candidate for the Seattle City Council, has been endorsed by the newly formed Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, a newly established political action committee based in D.C.

PHILADELPHIA Lesbian poet Jourdan Keith was profiled in *Philadelphia Gay News* in last month.

CHICAGO Mike Scott won the Calendar Boy contest at the L.A. Connection.

LOS ANGELES Antonio Le Mons was interviewed on KCLA's *Limuel on Your Radio Show* Aug. 17.

LOWELL, Mass. Samuel R. Delany was guest of honor at the Gaylaxian Science Fiction Society's third annual convention held in Tewksbury, Mass. Hannah M.G. Shapero will appear as artist guest of honor.

LOS ANGELES Desmond Fletcher, Reginald Chapple, Parnell Marcano, Ron Willis, Joe Hawkins were the recipients of "Ron Grayson Awards" at last month's BMX/LA anniversary party. Other special awards went to Arthur Crump, Greg Coleman, Hopeton Stewart and co-founder Cleo Manago.

NEW YORK Dr. Parris Kidd, author of *Living with the AIDS Virus: A Strategy for Long Term Survival,* spoke at the Educational Forum Aug. 16.

WASHINGTON Alexander Robinson is leaving his top post at the Inner City AIDS Network to take a lobbying spot with the ACLU.

HOUSTON Loynell Brooks was named Mr. Houston All-American 1992 in a contest held at Heaven.

SAN FRANCISCO Brian Freeman and Jackie Goldsby were on the Who Is 'We'?" panel as part of the Out/Look Foundation's HomoSocial series.

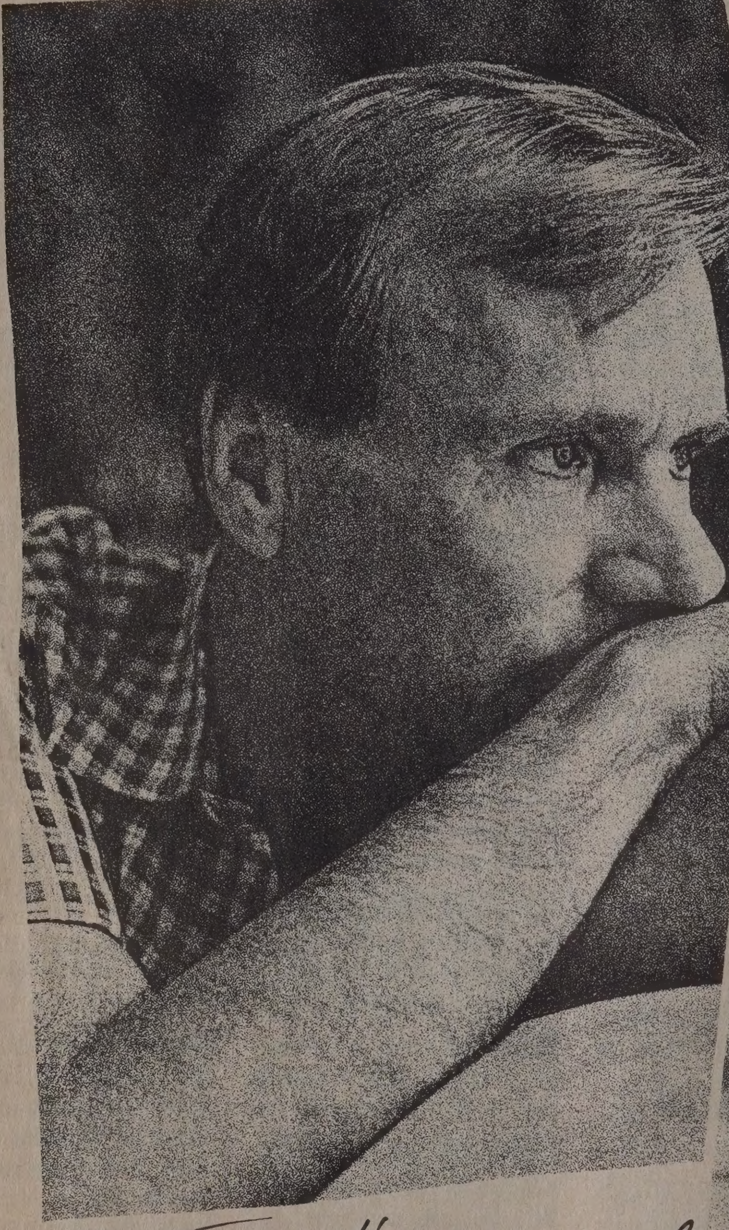
WASHINGTON Magic Turney and Sheri Marshall were on hand to help at the Friends United to Assist Jody Wildy Fund fundraiser last month.

BALTIMORE Mandy Carter was a keynote speaker at the 16th annual Southeastern Conference for Lesbians and Gay Men.

CHICAGO Ramsey Lewis will be among the celebrity M.C.s at AIDSWalk Sept. 22.

NEW YORK Chris Hansen says *au revoir* to MACT/NY after 21 years in the Big Apple to take a new position in Chicago.

LIVING WITH HIV



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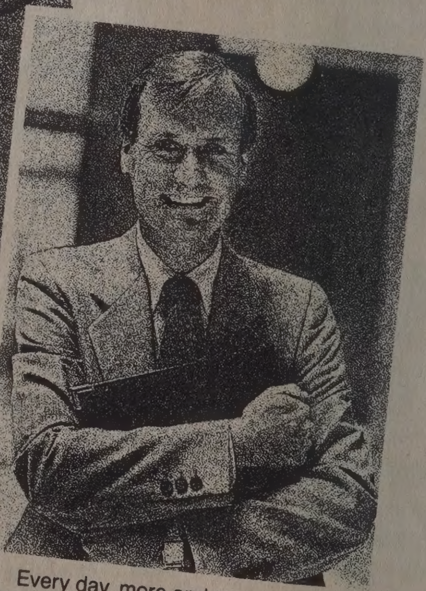

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Young, Gifted and Fierce

Telling very real stories makes heroes of three very real black gay men.

BY ALAN E. MILLER

After his just-completed performance of *Fierce Love: Stories from Black Gay Life* in Santa Monica's Highways Performance Space, Director Brian Freeman had a moment of trepidation. Two members of the audience converged upon him offering congratulations, his brother Malik, and Los Angeles-based performance artist Vaginal Creme Davis (sans drag). Freeman said "I didn't want to introduce them, but I did. I said 'Malik, this is Vadge; Vadge, Malik.' That was a strange moment for me. Under different circumstances, those two would cross the street to avoid one another, but on that occasion, they talked for quite awhile."

"In one way, they have a great deal in common, in terms of the fact that they are both black men who have embraced, for whatever reasons, new names and new identities. My brother's given name is Mark, and Vaginal, well..." Naturally, it is strange and disturbing to Freeman that many black theaters have refused to book or even to consider *Fierce Love*. They have, in effect, prevented the kind of dialogue between black lesbians and gay men and the black heterosexual community represented by that chance meeting of Malik and Vaginal. After an amiable, and even encouraging, discussion with one of the coordinators of the National Black Theatre Festival in Winston-Salem, N.C., Freeman sent a videotape. He has still not received a written response clarifying why *Fierce Love* was rejected. This was surprising to him not only because he had previously brought shows to the Festival, but also because in his initial contact with the coordinator he had forthrightly discussed its "controversial" content.

Fierce Love consists of 12 vignettes which tells some of the stories of black gay men. This collection is strong on storytelling in voices that are varied. One brother coyly relates a steamy safe sex scene with another brother in a jerk off club. Three outrageous sissies flaunt the qualities that have led their status-conscious brothers to reject them—and create their own club and rules. (And so the "Just Us Club" is born.) Three butch queens perform a rap about the meaning of red bandannas in the right hip pocket. *In Living Color*'s Blaine and Antoine find themselves "outed." These are a few of the voices commanding the attention of sold-out audiences in Los Angeles, Seattle and San Francisco and soon in New York and San Diego.

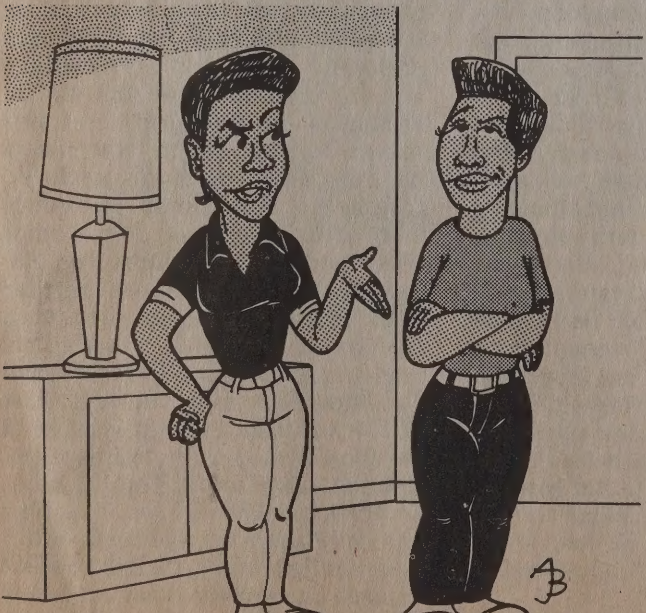
Despite their success, they have been barred access to a larger, wider audience. National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* aired an interview with the cast, but its multicultural affairs program rejected the show. Despite that Freeman has routinely contacted the black press where the show has been performed, they have been uniformly unresponsive. The lesbian and gay press and even the straight establishment press in each of their venues thus far on the other hand, have provided not only favorable but rave reviews. The three performers who constitute Pomo-Afro-Homos (Post-modern African-American Homosexuals), Brian Freeman, Bernard Branner and Eric Gupton, were even designated as "Heroes" in the San Francisco *Sentinel* special Lesbian and Gay Pride Week issue. The July 2 issue of *The Advocate* featured a review of the show. A San Francisco area television show *Bay Sunday* featured members of Pomo-Afro-Homos on Lesbian and Gay Pride Day. Freeman finds this response heartening, though it doesn't assuage his feelings of neglect by the black community. The gay press's response is not surprising to him since, he says, black gay men have been working to make the lesbian and gay press more responsive. He believes the same kind of process needs to happen within the black community. His membership in the black gay men's support group, Black Gay Men United, has helped.

Without the group," he says, "I never could have done this show. BGMU is where I learned to see what was in front of my eyes. When I joined, I thought of the group as a place to do my activist thing. I was initially very dismissive. What I came to find was an incredible sense of community solidarity. It was a place where I was not expected to play a particular role. I didn't have to pretend to be gayer, to be blacker. I could just be myself."

Freeman, who appeared in fellow BGMU member Marlon Riggs's *Tongues Untied*, says that Riggs's choreopoem/documentary helped the creation and evolution of *Fierce Love*. "It definitely mattered that Marlon was there doing his work, that [Joseph Beam's pioneering anthology of black gay writing] *In The Life* was there, and that the brothers in Other Countries (the New York-based writing workshop and journal) were doing their work. This play is definitely a product of the pieces that have come before it, and this play reflects the fact that we are learning to see each other as valuable people in each other's lives. For many of us, as black gay men living in urban areas, this is something new, this sense of creating a larger black gay community. Culture is something that definitely helps us build communities that we can live in."

BGMU also helped Freeman write parts of *Fierce Love* in a more practical sense. "I knew BGMU would laugh at this stuff. I could hear them. I knew people had this sensibility. That's very important to my putting this work together. What surprised me—and even shocked me—is that other communities appreciated the show, that even straight people liked it. Another thing that I have learned is that this show has had some practical value. I can't tell you how many times people have come up to me and told me that they have told off the real-life counterparts of the straight-acting (and married) gay character that I play. The audiences are usually really vocal, which I like. It's practice for real-life confrontations with these characters."

His continuing efforts reflect not only commitment to bridging gaps and creating dialogue, but also a developing sense of what the past wrought and what the future should bring. "We know who this show is for, but white folks and straight folks need to hear it, too. We sit through *Terminator 2* and the *Cosby Show* without seeing ourselves. Instead of viewing homosexuals as one more problem, let's look at lesbians and gays as part of the solution. After all, we've always been part of the solution. Look at Langston Hughes or James Baldwin or Pat Parker or Lorraine Hansberry. Are they part of the problem or part of the solution?"



"I don't see that 'bull' has anything to do with it."

Freeman was with the renowned San Francisco Mime Troupe for eight years, both on the stage and behind it. The political edge and the satire which the Mime Troupe is known for are evident in *Fierce Love*. Some of his sense of craft and attentiveness to black audiences is no doubt due to Freeman's three season apprenticeship with the Negro Ensemble Theatre in New York. There he worked with Douglas Turner Ward, Sheryl Lee Ralph, Clinton Turner Davis and Larry Fishburne, among others.

One project he has considered is a kind of "looking for Bayard," an examination of one of the architects of the 1963 March on Washington, Bayard Rustin. Freeman says "I'm just beginning to deal with black gay themes. I want to talk about being black and gay in the context of the larger community. The question I'd like to explore is 'Who are we at home?' Bayard Rustin is interesting to me because of his proximity to America's favorite icon, Dr. Martin Luther King. That says a lot to me. That Martin Luther King's right hand man was a black gay man is fascinating. It is difficult to gain access to information about that. For now though, I'm working hard to take *this* show as many places as I can. Everywhere we've travelled we've gotten outstanding reviews. In addition to Seattle, we've been to the Los Angeles area twice, first to the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum Conference and then recently to Santa Monica where we also did a benefit for them. In the Bay Area, we've done benefits for AIDS organizations, too. We'll go wherever we can get an audience."

That *Fierce Love* has been featured or reviewed in each of the Bay Area's major newspapers is something that cast member Bernard Branner finds perplexing. Even though all the attention is positive, with many of the publications dubbing it a "must-see," Branner says, "It's very strange to pick up every newspaper in town and find your face there." The Los Angeles performances were important ones for Branner too, since he is a native of that city, and most of his family still resides there. "It was hard," says Branner, "to perform there, in front of my family. I was apprehensive about how they would deal with the content, but they sat right in front, and they loved it. They *loved* it. Even so, it was hard for me."

"My brothers wouldn't even come to the show. It is a sensitive issue in my family since my oldest brother kicked his own son out of the house for being gay."

For Branner, as for Freeman, *Tongues Untied* and BGMU helped in the process of coming out and of integrating the various aspects of his life. The play has strengthened his gay identity despite the fact that Branner had performed and written about the experiences of black gay men as early as 1979, when he staged a theater piece called *Evolution of the Blues* in the town of Santa Cruz, where he earned his B.A. at the University of California. He describes the piece as "a black diva's revenge in a bar where nobody pays any attention to her." The hilariously choreographed "Red Bandannas" had its roots in a poem Branner wrote in 1983, but as the performer notes, "It didn't have a rap beat then." Additionally, Branner included aspects of homosexuality in his thesis performance at San Francisco State University in 1990 where he received an M.A. in Interdisciplinary Arts. That piece, *Flesh and Spirit*, combined traditional Haitian dance and folklore with homosexual content. According to him, "People forget that there are homosexuals in traditional cultures and movements. People like to forget that. Just like snapping and vogueing and a lot of popular slang. How many people know where that stuff came from? My thesis performance and this play too are ways of appropriating things that are ours as black gay men."

After *Tongues Untied* aired over a year ago, Branner found himself dealing openly with his gay identity at work for the first time. "One of my [high school] students said 'I saw you on TV last night, movie star.' Naturally, this made all the other students curious, but they were very receptive. *Fierce Love* has been a continuation of that process, of connecting different aspects of my life. Now I'm out with the people at work. They may have known before that I was gay, but I had never talked about my lifestyle with them before the show opened."

"Since then, they have been very supportive. Many of my co-workers have come to the show. The teachers at the elementary school where I work saw reviews in the paper and came, some of them three and four times. My adult (Haitian) dance students have come, too. (Branner continues to teach dance and to direct the Flesh and Spirit Performance Company.) *Fierce Love* has made my life more holistic. I don't feel I have to hide anymore. I feel I can be more open, not just in public, but in relationships too. What that means to me is that this work is about empowerment. It has helped me continue to become empowered in my own life."

"What I find most rewarding," says Branner, "is talking to other black gay men and realizing how empowering the work is for them. Whether they write or just talk, the show helps them believe that their stories are important enough to tell." Branner has discovered that the show has meaning for a wider audience than black gay men, though there is no mistaking its primary audience.

Branner finds the rejection of *Fierce Love* by the National Black Theatre Festival incongruous with the response the play has received from all of its audiences. He says, "I try not to get upset, because it's their loss," but he is hard-pressed to hide his anger and disappointment. "They should at least have the balls to tell us why we were rejected. The thing is, I don't expect to find a home there, nor do I have the energy to fight them. It's much more important to continue doing the work, fighting the fight in that way."

When Branner was in the audience watching Freeman and other gay men of color on a recent Bay Area talk show *People are Talking*, he noted that "our agenda was different from that of the hosts. We wanted to talk about homophobia in communities of color, but they seemed to want to start a fight between us and white gay men. It is important that we not get sidetracked into fighting someone else's fight."

After seeing Branner as "Popcorn" it is difficult to believe him when he says "The hardest thing for me to do in the show is the sissies because I had disassociated myself from that part of myself long ago. Doing the show meant that now I had to get in touch with them again."

That meant putting himself back in touch with the child who had dressed in Mom's clothes until the adults no longer found it cute. "I had permission to claim them again. I had to say: I can swish and swirl my superlatives and that's alright. Personally, this has allowed me to play more and experiment with my personality and with my responses to things."

Branner has come a long way from Watts and what he admits was a sheltered childhood in which all of his brothers and sisters were much older. While he points out that South Central Los Angeles was not so violent then, Branner admits that he was eager to leave to pursue a career as a veterinarian. After taking four years of science classes, he allowed himself to become the artist he says he always was.

Eric Gupton, the third member of Pomo-Afro-Homos, was exposed at a very early age to dance and theater, attending the Alma Lewis School of Fine Arts in Boston. At the age of nine, he was already studying both African dance and classical ballet. Gupton also started acting at an early age, performing in high school and college in both experimental and traditional theater. After he came to the west coast in 1984 he began to take Haitian dance classes from Branner (whom he calls "one of the most respected specialists in the field in this area") and then became one of four principal dancers in Branner's Flesh and Spirit Performance Company. That was fortuitous. It was actually in dance that Gupton originally made a name for himself in the Bay Area. That is, before his performance as a gay

"I don't see that 'dyke' has anything to do with it."

waiter in *Cafe Depresso*, netted him a nomination for Best Supporting Actor by the Bay Area Critics Circle.

His performance in *Fierce Love* is in some ways a culmination of all the work he has done. At tiny Antioch College (600 students), Gupton was a co-director of the Lesbian and Gay Center. He made it his mission while there to expose the campus to successful black lesbians and gay men. Among those who visited the campus were singer Blackberri, author and publisher Barbara Smith, and Pat Norman, executive director of the California AIDS Intervention Training. It was the high profile of a black gay man on the campus which lured him to that tiny Ohio campus. At a college fair in Boston, Gupton happened to see the picture of the student body president in an Antioch newspaper lying on their booth. Impressed by the impact that this man had on the campus in curriculum and in other areas, Gupton said "I knew that was the place for me."

He had come out to his family while still in high school. "My Mom said 'I don't understand this,' but she was supportive. My Dad said that it (my homosexuality) was a white man's disease and that I would get over it. I'm the oldest, and I've always been the outspoken one in my family. They had always taught me to speak out and to question. That was just another way of doing what I had been taught, to be honest. Of course, sometimes they were terrified by some of the things I said. They are much more accepting now but even then they were supportive. After all, many young men in my neighborhood had already been gunned down by that time. My parents were always more concerned with what the world would do to me."

Gupton enjoys travelling with the show, and looks forward to having the show seen by his family in Boston, also the home of director Freeman. The trip to the Alice B. Theatre Festival in Seattle was special for Gupton because even though there were fewer black gay men in that city than in their other venues, they did get to spend time with two black gay crew members who, after being tentative and nervous with the cast, were able to warm up to them after five performances there. "We went out to dinner with them after it was all over and 'had house' where they shared stories with us that they felt they couldn't share with anyone else. We were all very moved by their candor and honesty, and afterwards they thanked us profusely for giving them a vehicle and an opportunity to tell their stores. I knew then that this work is much more important and reaches the hearts and souls of people in ways I wouldn't dare imagine."

"That's why I love this show—not only because it speaks to the hearts and souls of so many men in this country, but also because it is becoming a part of people's lives *now*. Our stories are being told not only in the quiet kitchens of friends, but in a space where they can now be experienced by many. I love it when people come up to talk afterwards. Almost always they end up thanking us for telling their stories. What disturbs me though is that some white gay men think that this show encourages separatism. Even some of my friends have said this. I can understand that in some places that they feel left out. After all, this show requires a certain vocabulary and background knowledge. If they don't understand though, they should come afterwards and ask us about what we're doing. We really want audiences to ask questions and to talk with us about the show. This is an honest show and it needs to be dealt with honestly, but it is not surprising that some people have questions. There hasn't been anything like this in American theater."

The uniqueness of the show is what Gupton blames for the show's rejection by the Festival. But he is quick to point out the irony of that action. "It is a sad state of affairs when a fest that is supposed to embrace the scope and breadth of the African-American theater has rejected me. I *am* a bit upset about that but I've heard that some of the people who saw the show in Los Angeles are planning to go back to Winston-Salem and tell the planners how much this show deserved to be included in the festival. We've been doing the show primarily in experimental theaters, which is wonderful. We'd like to book this show in other places too, because we want as many people as possible to experience it."

Gupton's safe sex monologue has earned him more attention than he is willing to admit. He feels successful with it and comfortable because "it talks about sex, which is something I've never had any trouble talking about. I like men, the way they touch, feel, smell and act. I try to make that come across in the piece. But it goes beyond sex. I hope that comes across, too."

Even in that piece, he says, there is an element of collaboration, though there is a division of labor within the group. Branner handles the dance and movement aspects; Freeman much of the directorial responsibilities, writing, and booking, and Gupton the music.

"I don't know how much it shows but there's a lot of collaboration. This has truly been a collaboration. Even when one of us is out there on the stage alone, we're not really alone. We've all worked together to make this piece work."

Freeman has been surprised by the extent to which he has become more visible, even as a "spokesman" for the black gay community. "I couldn't have imagined this a year ago, or even six months ago," he says. Some of the attention, he suspects, is due to tokenism and to novelty (although some of it is due to genuine interest and respect for difference), but he is certainly making the most of his opportunities. He, too, is providing opportunities, in that many of the performances of *Fierce Love* have been benefits for gay or AIDS organizations, like the one for Seattle's People of Color AIDS Network, the Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, the October benefit for Gay Men of African Descent in New York, or the recent benefit for *Out/Look* magazine.

As emcee for the opening of *Paris Is Burning* (a benefit for the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and the San Francisco-based Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center), Freeman remarked, "It's been a black gay summer across the nation!"

For the *Out/Look* event, he delivered a speech on the topic "Who Is We?" where he mused about his emerging role as spokesperson with his characteristic humor. "The success of *Fierce Love* has put me in a public spotlight and I find myself becoming a 'professional homosexual.' Basically, I, like erotic video star Joe Simmons, now get paid for being black and gay and I think it is no coincidence that with the emerging visibility of a black gay community, there can be black gay performance artists as well as black gay porn. Well, you *could* call Joe a performance artist. He certainly performs. But does he write his own material?"

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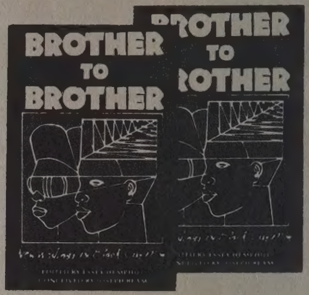

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"BECAUSE STRONG LEADERSHIP LEADS TO A STRONGER COMMUNITY"

Pressing Issues

A quick history and survey of current black lesbian and gay periodicals.

BY MARK HAILE

An ordinary newspaper is the daily chronicle of a community's life and especially of the extraordinary events therein. In the African-American community, the very existence of a newspaper, or any form of communication chronicling black life, is extraordinary, as much now as during the days of slavery.

It wasn't on a whim that white men made it illegal to teach slaves and women how to read in many parts of the United States. Their own struggle for independence had taught them the power of information.

Just as the first newspapers in colonial America were single sheet radical leaflets, quickly suppressed by the British, so too most black and most gay publications had humble beginnings.

Francis Williams was the first African-American to publish—a book of poems in Latin on April 17, 1758. Not long after, African-born Phyllis Wheatley, kidnapped at eight years of age and taken to Boston, began writing in English at age 13. Thus the literary resistance of African-Americans began. It would not be until March 16, 1827 (now celebrated as Black Press Day) that the first black newspaper, *Freedoms Journal*, would launch the regular black press.

The African-American press was upfront about its mission of liberation, and suffered mightily for it. On Nov. 10, 1898, a mob of whites murdered at least 300 blacks in Wilmington, N.C., while an unknown number of bodies floated out to sea. The lynch mobs burned down the offices of the *Wilmington Record*, and went in search of the editor, Alex Manly. The message to other black newspapers across the country was obvious.

Don't look for an account of the massacre in an official North Carolina history textbook. No complete edition of the *Record* is known to exist today. Yet the attempt to muzzle black voices would not succeed. New publications, such as W.E.B. DuBois's *Crisis*, and later A. Phillip Randolph's *Opportunity*, sprang into being after the turn of the century and during World War I.

The same hostile message would be delivered a half century later to the fledgling attempts of lesbians and gay men to document the doings and concerns of their community. Early mimeographed newsletters also withstood bombings and witchhunts. After homemade newsletters had grown into hundreds of publications distributed to hundreds of thousands of readers, HIV would pose a new threat to the survival of the gay media.

Though many of today's black lesbian and gay newspapers and magazines are still in their fledgling years of publication, gay consciousness has spread as readership has enlarged. When viewed against the backdrop of the racism and homophobia which still exist in this country, the economic and social apartheid that the black lesbian and gay community still endures, there is added significance to the struggle of these institutions to survive along with their community. It adds a somber note to the recognition of those publications which exist now only as historical footnotes.

In all probability, the first magazine which might be called black and gay was *Fire!!* A single issue published in the summer of 1926 showcased the best and brightest of the Harlem Renaissance including works by Langston Hughes, Bruce Nugent, Countee Cullen, Zora Neale Hurston and others. Alas, it may have so shocked its intended audience that no subsequent issue dared emerge in print. True to its name, the bulk of the copies of the publication went up in flames in the basement where they were stored; the controversy long outlasted the magazine.

The next positive mention of gays in a mainstream black publication was not to come until 1948, when a March issue of *Ebony* would give mention to Josie's Deluxe Club, a popular Detroit show bar.

Almost a decade after the Stonewall Riots in 1969, the Third World Lesbian and Gay Conference of 1979 turned that year into the next one of significance for black lesbian and gay publishing. Participants returning home from the Washington, D.C. gathering were inspired to found a number of organizations and institutions for lesbian and gay people of color communities.

In August 1979, a four-page *Blacklight* was crafted by Sidney Brinkley, a journalist whose vision it was to create a newspaper especially for Washington, D.C.'s black lesbian and gay community. From a mere debut of 300 copies, Brinkley's dedication saw the paper increase to a run of 7,000 within two years. *Blacklight* was lauded for its commentary and features as much as its professional approach to the news. That it was the only lesbian and gay publication at the time able to interview now former U.S. ambassador to the United Nations and mayor of Atlanta Andrew Young, testifies to the prominence *Blacklight* developed in the nation's capital.

Moja: Gay & Black was a unique New York newspaper that included information from gay publications from across the country. Co-editors Calvin Lowery and William Harris published beginning in 1979 a comprehensive compilation of news, history and features in communities of color, paying special attention to the difficulties of living constantly in an undefined zone between families of origin and the gay community. In addition to maintaining a strong feminist content, *Moja* challenged the racism in the gay community, the homophobia in communities of color and sexism and violence wherever they found it.

No organization would be more diverse—or need to be—in its communication with members than BWMT. Local chapters and the national umbrella association that coordinates inter-chapter communication and activities produce a variety of publications ranging from one-page flyers to sophisticated journals timed for their yearly national convention. The San Francisco/Bay Area chapter has published continuously since 1979, which makes it the longest running gay publication for blacks still in operation, keeping in mind that it is the product of a common effort of gay men of all colors. The New York City chapter, Men of All Colors Together, has a newsletter which has become the indispensable multicultural guide to the city. Chock full of everything and anything happening in New York, it reflects the most progressive political perspective and has heralded the trend toward multiculturalism. Perhaps their most ambitious literary project yet will be a special tenth anniversary anthology of writing by men *and* women of all colors, due out this fall.

From San Francisco, the *Quarterly*, founded in 1980, was a literate and challenging periodical devoted to promoting lesbian and gay third world interests. In 1983 its editor published *Colorful People and Places*, the most comprehensive listing of lesbians and gays of color ever undertaken. Both the *Quarterly* and *Colorful People* were written by Michael J. Smith, a white interracialist who founded BWMT in San Francisco in January 1980.

Onyx, the first black lesbian newsletter, was a bimonthly first published in 1982 by a black lesbian collective to promote social support and anti-racist activities from its Berkeley base. There was also a publication known at the time as the *Black Lesbian Newsletter* across the bay in San Francisco unaffiliated with *Onyx* or its predecessor of the same name.

The Diplomat began in Chicago in 1981, moving to Washington, D.C. to provide additional focus on other Third World lesbians and gay men.

Azalea, a newsletter published by the Azalea Collective, a lesbian of color group active in New York, came out in 1983.

Also in 1983, *The Other Black Woman*, began as a quarterly published by the Committee for the Visibility of the Other Black Woman: The Black Lesbian, in New York.

Jambo!, Swahili for "hello," was a publication by *Paz y Liberación* of Houston which briefly attempted to cover information on lesbian and gays in Africa and the Islamic nations. It was later absorbed into *PyL*.

A decade into the AIDS epidemic in America, there are now publications worldwide for researchers, caregivers, people with AIDS themselves and periodicals aimed at certain communities. Just as the gay community built a network of services without the assistance—and sometimes under the open harassment—of federal officials, the black community realized that specially tailored information and communication links between cities and organizations were imperative. Publications such as *Peer Point*, published by the Inner City AIDS Network of Washington, D.C. have done much to spread hard core information—and hope—to lesbian and gay African-Americans affected by or infected with HIV across the nation.

In another corner of gay publishing, that of erotica, the pioneers whose major focus were black men were Third World Studios of Chicago and Sierra Domino of San Francisco. *Force One* was published in San Francisco from 1980 until 1982 when it's owner Alan Boone died suddenly. The magazine featured photographs of black male nudes only. On the scene for but briefly, the *BFP Tribune* began as a company newsletter and expanded into a full-fledged magazine providing an in depth look at the world of black gay male erotica. Although it covered its subject thoroughly and quickly sold out in local stores, subscribers did not materialize quickly enough to sustain the publication.

While this list is current for the information received by BLK at the time of publication, there are some periodicals for which information could not be verified by press deadline. This includes information on the *Alternative*, a new black gay tabloid set for a September debut.

This compilation basically covers periodicals that are published by African-American lesbians and gay men, but a special mention must be made of a number of publishing efforts around the world. None could be more inspiring than the work of the Gays and Lesbians of the Witwatersrand, whose *GLOW Newsletter* is the first serving brothers and sisters on the African continent. Operating largely with foreign assistance, these men and women are communicating to the black lesbian and gay community of South Africa amid circumstances that most Americans would find difficult to imagine. Their experiences and determination are both humbling and inspiring.

Also exciting is England's *Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project Newsletter*, filling 12 pages with information of what is happening across England in lesbian and gay communities of color. An interesting note: In Great Britain, the term black is used to refer to anyone of African, Asian, Latin American or Pacific Islander heritage and all other indigenous peoples outside of Europe. The sense of interconnectedness is evident through the newsletter, which incorporates local happenings with world-wide news events.

Closer to home, *Caribbean Heat* magazine gives Puerto Rico a source for news, information on HIV services and social events in a unique bilingual format. *Heat* has appeared at a critical time for the lesbian and gay community, as Puerto Rico is experiencing one of the highest rates of HIV infection in the country, alongside the proliferation of new organizations, from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays to ACT-UP.

Other groups outside the continental U.S. which deserve acknowledgement are Grupo Gay da Bahia, (founded in 1980 in Brazil's "Blackest" State) the first gay Brazilian group to receive official government recognition in 1983, affiliated with BWMT and NCBLG. GGB publishes a newsletter regularly; and the *Jamaica Gaily News*, founded in 1977 by the Gay Freedom Movement, which lasted longer than any other Caribbean lesbian and gay group before withering away last year.

Here are, then, the potpourri of publications which mirror the many facets of black lesbian and gay life in America, while consolidating a sense of community through dissemination of the information, humor, encouragement, collected wisdom, criticism and debate inspired by our existence.

Aché

Aché: A Journal for Black Lesbians, began as a bimonthly magazine in the East Bay, that now has subscribers across the country and around the world. Since February of 1989, says publisher Lisbet, Aché has been a journal explaining black lesbian culture through interviews, fiction, poetry/prose, artwork, news and other writings. Under the direction of editor DeeAnne Davis, Aché has become a leading journal, recording the experiences of the black lesbian in her own voice.

Aché: A Journal for Black Lesbians, Box 6071, Albany, CA 94706, 415-849-2819. *Publisher:* Lisbet. *Editor:* DeeAnne Davis. *Inception:* February 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* National and International. *Circulation:* 600, paid. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $10-25 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* Yes.

AllBlack

AllBlack first appeared on the shelves in January of this year, with erotic fiction and photographs depicting black gay men, but appealing to all gay men. Under the editorship of Pat Califia, AllBlack joins the Advocate family of publications, hopefully to be published at least once yearly if sales warrant.

All Black, Box 4371, Los Angeles, CA 90078, 213-871-1225. *Fax:* 213-467-6805. *Publisher:* Niles Merton. *Editor-in-Chief:* Richard Rouilard. *Editor:* Pat Califia. *Inception:* January 1991. *Frequency:* Annual. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 50,000, paid. *Single issue:* $5.95. *Page size:* 8x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Associates Newsletter

The Associates Newsletter is the offficial organ of the Associates, a black gay men's organization in Miami, but the eight-page quarterly includes news and information of the general black gay community in South Florida.

Associates, Box 472382, Miami, FL 33247-2382. *Publisher:* Associates. *Editor:* Rice Blaque. *Inception:* 1990. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* South Florida. *Circulation:* 300, free. *Subscription:* Yes. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

B&G

B&G Magazine burst on to the New York scene in February 1990. Under the editorship of Joseph Cornell, B&G is bringing national news and cultural information to New York's African-American community, and spreading the word on New York's African-American gay men across the country. In a city known for its racism, even within the lesbian and gay community, black New Yorkers have had in B&G a magazine that is of their community when neither black nor gay publications can sometimes be counted on. Of late, B&G has had publishing difficulties.

B&G Magazine, Box 1511, New York, NY 10276, 212-629-1887, 800-688-5401. *Publisher:* Joseph Cornell. *Editor:* Joseph Cornell. *Inception:* February 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly, except combined July/August. *Primary distribution area:* East Coast. *Circulation:* 14,500, free. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $18 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

BGM

BGM is a literary journal for black gay men. Published by the Black Light Press under the editorship of Sidney Brinkley periodically since 1986, it has contained both fiction and non-fiction, along with photography, art, poetry, prose, interviews and essays. Nationally distributed by Inland Book Company of New Haven, Conn. BGM accepts submissions from writers and artists from across the country, sometimes presenting a theme for the issue.

BGM, Box 9391, Washington, D.C. 20005. *Publisher:* Blacklight Press. *Editor:* Sidney Brinkley. *Inception:* 1986. *Frequency:* Periodically. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Single issue:* $4.95. *Subscription:* None. Page *size:* 7x10. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* Soon.

Black Lace

Black Lace is the new quarterly of the BLK family which will start right where the name implies, crossing over the threshold of the politically correct to another, more intimate kind of sisterhood. This will be the erotica of, by and for black women that could not be had until now. "Let's celebrate," says editor Alycee J. Lane. "Let us share our fantasies frankly, honestly even brutally…to hell with what we've taught ourselves to think. Pledge allegiance to your entire black woman selves.."

Black Lace, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90038-0912, 213-410-0808, *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Editor:* Alycee J. Lane. *Inception:* Spring 1991. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 2,000. *Single issue:* $6. *Subscription:* $20 year, $36 two years. Outside U.S. add $8 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Black/Out

Summer of 1986 saw the emergence of Black/Out, the magazine of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays. First published under the editorship of Joseph Beam, later issues were guided by Angela Bowen and Colin Robinson, among others. As the glossy-cover journal of the national lesbian and gay organization based in Washington, D.C., Black/Out quickly established itself as a credible and attractive magazine. Although it has not been published on a regular basis.

Black/Out. *Inception:* Summer 1986. *Frequency:* Occasionally. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Single issue:* $6. *Subscription:* $10 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

BLK

BLK, the national black lesbian and gay newsmagazine, now has a circulation of 37,000 distributed free to cities across the United States and overseas as well. BLK maintains a vigilant watch for signs of homophobia or racism in the media, a column on personalities, all the latest information on HIV pertaining to African-Americans. Interviews with the role models and movers and shakers of the black lesbian and gay community appear in almost every issue.

BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, 213-410-0808. *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Publisher:* Alan Bell. *Editor:* Alan Bell. *Inception:* December 1988. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Circulation:* 37,000, free. *Single issue:* $2. *Subscription:* $18 year, $30 two years, outside U.S. add $11 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

G.B.F.

G.B.F., or Gay Black Female, is published out of Hollywood by Stephanie Wynne with editor Dina Smith. Begun in August of 1990, becoming bimonthly in January 1991. Distributed throughout L.A. and San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area clubs, the black lesbian publication features city to city interaction, interviews, an advice column and personal ads with a growing distribution.

G.B.F., 1680 N. Vine St. #1211, Los Angeles, CA 90028, Hollywood, CA 90028, 213-467-7952. *Publisher:* Stephanie Wynne. *Editor:* Dina Smith. *Inception:* August 1990. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* Los Angeles. *Circulation:* 5,000, free. *Subscription:* None. *Page size:* 5½x8½. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Habari

Habari is a bimonthly newsletter distributed in the San Diego area. Published by the Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United (LAGADU), it is the primary source of information for African-American activities and other information of interest in the region. Published since September 1989, Habari hopes to distribute the free newsletter across San Diego, by more than doubling their circulation, in the year to come.

Habari, Box 620448, San Diego, CA 92162, 619-294-6515. *Publisher:* Lesbians and Gays of African Descent United. *Editor:* Newsletter Committee. *Inception:* September 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* San Diego. *Circulation:* 200, free. *Subscription:* None. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Kuumba

Kuumba is the newest literary magazine for lesbians and gay African-Americans, making its debut with the spring 1991 issue. The quarterly features strictly black lesbian and gay poetry from across the country and from Africa as well. It's name comes from one of the seven principles of Kwanzaa, meaning "creativity."

Kuumba, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912, 213-410-0808. *Fax:* 213-410-9250. *Publisher:* Alan Bell. *Editors:* Ayofemi Stowe Folayan and Mark Haile. *Inception:* Spring 1991. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* National. *Circulation:* 500. *Single issue:* $4.50. *Subscription:* $15 year, $28 two years, outside U.S. add $8 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10⅞. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Literary Xpress

Literary Xpress is a quarterly providing interviews, essays, artwork, articles and photographs, from poetry and the history of literature by or about women of color, with information on health, literary contests and encouragement for women in all endeavors. The Literary Exchange was started in 1985 as a not-for-profit corporation "to heighten the visibility of women of color in literature, thereby, improving her status in society." Subscribers to the "paperzine" are automatically associate members, entitled to special benefits.

Literary Xpress, Box 438583, Chicago, IL 60643. *Publisher:* Literary Exchange. *Editor-in-Chief:* Yaounde Olu. *Inception:* Summer 1987. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Subscription:* $10 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Party Goer

Party Goer, published monthly by Ernest Nolen, gives Chicago area residents and members of Nightlife, (a local organization) information of social activities and provides a directory to assist those just coming out.

The Party Goer, 843 W. Van Buren #106, Chicago, IL 60607, 312-642-6050. *Publisher:* Nightlife. *Editor:* Ernest Nolen. *Inception:* October 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Circulation:* 400, free. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Planet Roc

Planet Roc, edited by Simone Bouyer, has been written by and for Chicago area artists since January of 1989. Published by Wholesome Roc Gallery, Plant Roc contains not just gallery news, but information on local art shows, music events, film reviews, poetry, and even recipes. Planet Roc is the indispensable community link to art events ranging in subject matter from Kwanzaa to Women with AIDS.

Planet Roc, 1444 N. Greenview, Chicago, IL 60622, 312-252-1905. *Publisher:* Wholesome Roc Gallery. *Editor:* Simone Bouyer. *Inception:* January 1989. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago. *Circulation:* 1000, free. *Subscription:* $5 year. *Page size:* 7x8½. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Pyramid Periodical

Pyramid Periodical was started by Roy Gonsalves in 1986, providing with each issue an exciting collection of prose and poetry, plays, short stories, commentary, reviews and news relative to the lives of lesbians and gay men of color. Now being issued by Kafra Publishing Co., editor Rodney G. Dildy continues to produce the publication free of advertising. Pyramid has, throughout it's several editions, grown from a New York-based, all male publication to a lively multicultural, all-inclusive quality journal which incorporates a dizzying number of varieties of the English language all known to black lesbians and gay men.

Pyramid Periodical, Box 1111, New York, NY 10013-1111, 212-569-1518, *Fax:* None. *Publisher:* Kafra Publishing Co., Inc. *Editor:* Rodney C. Diloy. *Inception:* 1986. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution areas:* U.S. and Canada. *Circulation:* 500, paid. *Single issue:* $5. *Subscription:* $16 year. *Page size:* 5½x8½. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* No.

Quarterly Interchange

Quarterly Interchange publishes gay male fiction, non-fiction, poetry, politics, interviews and features providing a forum for adult men interested in interracial and cross-cultural relationships with other men. QI has been published since January 1988, nationwide, edited and published by Thom Bean who was until recently a member of the Out/Look board of directors.

Quarterly Interchange, Box 42502, San Francisco, CA 94101, 415-641-5706. *Fax:* 415-864-0351. *Publisher:* Thom Bean. *Editor:* Thom Bean. *Inception:* January 1988. *Frequency:* Quarterly. *Primary distribution area:* United States. *Single issue:* $10. *Subscription:* $20 year, outside U.S. add $4 year. Page *size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Rainbow Connections

Jacquie Bishop and Lidell Jackson are editors of Rainbow Connections, a new monthly lesbian and gay multicultural newsletter aimed at people of color in the New York Metropolitan area. Rainbow Connections will provide an opportunity for organizations and agencies in New York's incredibly diverse communities to get the word out on activities and events. In the words of Jacquie Bishop, "Sometimes we'll rant, sometimes we'll rave, sometimes we'll dish."

Rainbow Connections, 208 N. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-827-6350, *Fax:* 212-736-7318. *Publisher:* Jacquie Bishop. *Editors:* Jacquie Bishop and Lidell Jackson. *Inception:* November 1990. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* New York metropolitan area. *Circulation:* 2,000, free. *Subscription:* $15 year. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* No. *Classified ads:* No.

Real Read

The Real Read appeared in April 1989, providing a voice for lesbian and gay African-American prose, poetry and Afrocentric politics. Under the stewardship of co-editors Cleo Manago and the late Ron Grayson, whose untimely illness and subsequent death postponed the second issue, the Real Read is passionate and direct. The second issue is scheduled for late summer of 1991. Affiliated with the Black Men's Xchange and the Black Women's Xchange, the editors describe the Real Read as an "informational and non-conformist document designed to empower, apprise and celebrate the community with a multi-people, Afrocentrically-cultivated view of the nation and the world."

The Real Read, Box 8216, Inglewood, CA 90308, 213-281-7742. *Fax:* Call first. *Publisher:* Real Read Collective. *Editors:* Arthur Crump, Joe Hawkins, Cleo Manago, Rajer Southall and Sipho Nkosi. *Inception:* April 1989. *Frequency:* Bimonthly. *Primary distribution area:* Western U.S. *Single issue:* Free. *Subscription:* $24 year. *Page size:* 8x10. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

South Bay Times

South Bay Times did not respond to our questionnaire. The following information, which was taken from the newspaper's August 1990 issue, is incomplete and may not be current.

Although not a black lesbian or black gay publication, the South Bay Times is included here because one of its co-owners, Whayne Herriford, is black. The South Bay Times of San Jose, now California's third largest city according to the 1990 census, provides a thorough community services directory and business directory covering the sprawling, three-county region, with a focus on the local news often left out of the San Francisco gay papers.

South Bay Times, 265 Meridian Ave. #6, San Jose, CA 95126, 408-496-8271. *Publishers:* Whayne Herriford and Richard Kendall. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* Northern California. *Page size:* 8½x11. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Thing

The phenomenon of underground magazines directed to the young and ultra-hip was for the most part a white world until Thing made its debut in November of 1989. Published out of Chicago by Robert Ford, it appears, in his words, "capriciously," with no regular schedule. It's guaranteed to be packed—when you can find it—with plenty of info on the underground arts scene, making visible the black presence among the shapers of the art world in the 21st Century. It's filled with politics, entertainment, art news, camp and commentary from a fresh new perspective, distributed in major cities across the country with a circulation of about 2,000.

Thing, 2151 W. Division, Chicago, IL 60622-3056, 312-276-0398. *Publisher:* Robert Ford. *Editors:* Robert Ford, Trent Adkins, Delon Strode, Lawrence Warren, Stephen Freshwater. *Inception:* November 1989. *Frequency:* Capriciously published. *Primary distribution area:* Chicago and bookstores in New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Hollywood, Philadelphia, Washington, and Denver. *Circulation:* 2,000, paid. *Single issue:* $3. *Subscription:* $7 for three issues. *Page size:* 8x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* No.

Wimmin

Wimmin, the spinoff of B&G, does for New York's black lesbians what B&G does for men. Initiated with a circulation of 3,000, Wimmin will bring news of national importance to black lesbians along the Eastern seaboard, including poetry and information on arts, business and health. Editor Yvette Anderson in the opening editorial said, "We are different from any man I know and any straight woman in the world. We deserve our own title—Wimmin. This is who we are and will always be. This is our chance to hear each other's joy and feel each other's pain. This is the time to speak out and to listen; to differ and to let each other be." Of late, Wimmin has had publishing difficulties.

Wimmin, Box 1511, New York, NY 10276, 212-714-7747, 800-688-5401. *Associate Publisher and Editor-in-Chief:* Yvette Anderson. *Managing Editor:* Constance Wood. *Inception:* January 1991. *Frequency:* Monthly. *Primary distribution area:* East Coast. *Circulation:* 3,000, *free*. *Subscription:* $18 year, $30 two years, outside U.S. add $15 year. *Page size:* 8¼x10¾. *Display ads:* Yes. *Classified ads:* Yes.

Note: The foregoing information was accurate to the best of our knowledge at press time. Please bring any inaccuracies or additions to our attention for a future update.

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Blacks Ponder Meaning of Dahmer

**BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR**

MILWAUKEE—There are two stories happening in Milwaukee. One is the gruesome discovery of the murders of mostly young, black men by a handsome, biond gay man who easily lured victims to his home. The other story is of the lurid reporting that is sweeping through the media worldwide, the brash insensitivity of the police and the inflammatory relationship between the races and straights and gays in a city not known for its tolerance.

The murders were more than sickening: they have spanned pages of sensational coverage, and a wave of hate and fear against gays in particular in the Milwaukee area.

Jeffrey L. Dahmer, 31, was charged with first degree intentional homicide in the first four murder counts to come out of the confessions given to Milwaukee police on July 22.

Dahmer, described as both racist and homophobic, confessed to murders as far back as 1978, drugging then strangling his victims before dismembering their bodies. Police in California, Illinois, Ohio, Indiana and Wisconsin are investigating whether Dahmer may be linked to unsolved murders and disappearances in the areas, above the 17 to which he has already confessed.

Neighbors had long complained of the odors coming from Dahmer's apartment, which he explained away as a failed refrigerator. Most of the men went there willingly with him, attracted by his good looks and quiet demeanor or promises of payment for photographing them. At least one man was invited over just for a "neighborly" beer.

Witnesses remember seeing Dahmer at bars in Chicago and Milwaukee, and gay pride celebrations in both cities. Yet he was far from happy about being gay, as witnesses have brought out, describing him as "a loner, distant and moody." The *Wisconsin Light* recounted how Dahmer was thrown out of the Milwaukee Club Baths in 1987 for drugging people in his private room, sending one man to the hospital for over a week. Said Bradley Babush who worked at the now defunct bathhouse, "the police talked to Dahmer and our staff, but none of the victims wanted to press charges."

Milwaukee Chief of Police Phillip Arreola lambasted the probation department for releasing Dahmer after serving ten months of a one to eight year sentence in 1989 for sexual assault on a teenager, then failing to supervise him while on probation. Arreola called it "a damning indictment" of the judicial system, but it was an eye opener into the sexist, racist homophobia of the police department even more so.

It was negligence by Milwaukee police that ultimately allowed Dahmer to continue his murder spree, although he was almost uncovered on May 27 of this year, when one victim managed to escape.

Two women called 911 while they protected the 14-year-old Konerak Sinthasomphone. They found him running down an alley, incoherent, naked, bleeding and beaten. Dahmer told officers who arrived on the scene that the youth was 19, merely drunk, and ran away after a lovers spat. Sinthasomphone was the brother of the youth that Dahmer had been arrested for assaulting two years earlier.

The police chose to believe the story of the white male over the two black women, and without talking to or examining the drugged youth closely, remanded him to Dahmer's custody. He was never seen alive again. Police never checked to see that Dahmer was on probation for sexual assault. They never ran a 'make' on him; they didn't even make a connection when the youth's family made a missing person's report.

The two women had even called repeatedly to officials requesting that some sort of follow-up be made. The transcripts of the women's frantic emergency call, and the offhand manner in which the officers jokingly dismissed the incidents, repleat with disparaging remarks, has since resulted in a controversy of its own, with three officers suspended over the matter for their breach of procedures pending an investigation. Dahmer went on killing—at least four more victims between that night and his arrest almost two months later.

Finally, one man did escape. Tracy Edwards, 32, found running down the street with handcuffs on, led police back to Dahmer's apartment where at least 11 victims were killed. Dahmer's confession led to the identification of all the victims whose mutilated body parts they found throughout the apartment, and six other victims whose remains were scattered about the countryside.

Prior to the grisly discovery, Milwaukee was already in the middle of a rise of gay bashing in the city, as is the case nationwide. A survey of customers conducted by the La Cage bar owner George Prentice found some 90 percent felt unsafe on the street outside local bars while they felt 100 percent safe once inside the club. No new polling has been undertaken to see how the Dahmer case may have changed that feeling, but security patrols, posters, and information about personal safety were being talked about as seriously as safe sex information once was.

The relationship between Milwaukee police and the gay community had long been dismal. Instead of assisting the gay community during the recent wave of bashings, the police raided a local Southside bar, arresting two dancers. Ironically, the men were performing during a benefit to raise funds for the victims of the bashing spree.

The heterosexual press has not been able to contain itself in regard to the sensationalist aspects of the story. A June 27 murder in Raymond, Wisc. prosecuted by Racine County District Attorney Lennie Webber was the result of what she called "homosexual overkill," where far more injuries were inflicted than necessary to cause death.

The phrase was picked up by the media and used in conjunction with the Dahmer case by the Milwaukee Chief of Police, even as activists denounced the term. Again and again, the coroners, prosecutors, police and news media have been told again that such references are illogical and unethical, and create distorted images in the eyes of the public of gays as murderers.

Local media continued to play up the murders as a "logical result of homosexual behavior," as Milwaukee lesbian journalist Jamakaya heard from Mark Belling of WISN Talk Radio.

'Tongues Untied' Goes National, but 17 Top PBS Stations Refuse to Air It

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

NEW YORK—*Tongues Untied,* the award-winning film documentary on gay black men, televised on the public television documentary series *P.O.V.* in July, came under attack for its graphic material and because its producer received a $5,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

The hour-long film was on the PBS schedule for July 16 at 10 p.m. Public stations are not required to broadcast the programs provided by PBS, and they can change the scheduling of programs to best serve their own communities.

Seventeen stations in the top 50 markets chose in advance not to show it at all, and at least one station cancelled at the last minute.

Many stations, concerned about the film's material, chose not to show the film during prime time. Eleven stations delayed the broadcast until 11 p.m. or later. The two public stations in Washington, WETA and WHMM, aired it on July 19 at 11 p.m. Fears that donors to the stations would find the film offensive was the most commonly cited reason off the record for shelving the broadcast.

The producer, Marlon Riggs, 34 years old, who is himself gay and black and HIV positive, calls his film an affirmation of gay black life. He has called it an expression of "the vitality and significance of a community that traditionally has been silenced and ignored."

Riggs works in San Francisco and lectures at the University of California at Berkeley.

Tongues Untied is an amalgam of rap music, street poetry, documentary film and dance. It has scenes of partial nudity and of men kissing and is replete with profanity and racial and homosexual slurs. It is not, actually, sexually explicit.

Appearing on BET, prior to the broadcast, Riggs said, "What I wanted to sound off about was the theory, the torment, the rage, the triumphs and the passions, the struggles of black gay men to define their own identities on their own terms."

The strongest attack on the film has come from Rev. Donald E. Wildmon, the president of the American Family Association, a conservative media watchdog group based in Tupelo, Miss.

Instead of his usual practice of seeking to ban material he finds objectionable, Wildmon said he hoped *Tongues Untied* would be widely released. He said he had not seen the film but assumed most people would find it offensive.

"This is the first time millions of Americans will have an opportunity to see the kinds of things their tax money is being spent on," said Wildmon. "This is the first time there is no third party telling them what is going on; they can see for themselves."

"Most of the people who run public broadcasting institutions—public televisions stations in this country are white male heterosexuals," commented Riggs on BET, "and when you present a work that challenges their authority, that challenges their privilege, they get upset—and not only do they get upset, they want to ban the work, which they're doing."

Tongues Untied is no newcomer to television, shown last year by public television stations in San Francisco, New York and Los Angeles. None of these stations reported any unfavorable viewer reaction.

This time around, the film is being shown as part of *P.O.V.* (for "point of view"), an award-winning series of independently produced nonfiction films.

The *P.O.V.* series received $250,000 of its $1.1 million budget this year from the National Endowment for the Arts. In addition to his regional endowment grant, Riggs received $3,000 from the Film Arts Foundation. Most of the film's $40,000 cost came from donated equipment and volunteer help.

The film was voted best documentary at the Berlin International Film Festival, best independent/experimental work by the Los Angeles Film Critics and best video at the New York documentary Film Festival, among other awards.

The film has been commissioned for public television broadcasts in England, Spain, Australia and Sweden. It has been screened at film festivals around the world, including Edinburgh, Scotland; Melbourne, Australia; Cophenhagen, Denmark; Dublin, Ireland; and Riga, Latvia.

Riggs had previously won an Emmy for *Ethnic Notions,* a film about black stereotypes, shown on PBS in 1989.

Among the top markets that appeared on what *Los Angeles Times* critic Howard Rosenberg referred to as "The Wimp List," were WEDU, Tampa, Fla.; KCPT, Kansas City, Mo.; WMVS, Milwaukee, Wis.; Oklahoma Educational TV; Iowa Public Television; WTVS, Detroit, Mich.; Channel 8, Nashville, Tenn.; WTVI, Charlotte, N.C.; ETV, Columbia, S.C.; WHRO, Norfolk, Va.; WVIA, Pittson, Pa.; WITF, Harrisburg, Pa.; KOAP, Portland, Ore.; WFYI, Indianapolis, Ind.; KETV, Lesington, Ky.; KUON, Lincoln, Neb.; Alabama Public TV; WOSU, Columbus, Ohio; WMEB, Bangor, Me.; WCBB, Lewiston, Me.; WMAA, Jackson, Miss.; and KUHT, Houston, Tex.

Cincinnati, the center of the controversy last year over the public display of the photographs of Robert Mapplethorpe, viewed *Tongues Untied* there during prime time on WCET.

"We chose to air the *P.O.V.* series," said Jack Dominic, a senior vice president of the station, "and we chose to run it in prime time. We're not going to put this one show on at a different hour. That would be a cop-out."

"I don't think small children or even young teen-agers should watch the program," he said. "It's not the kind of show I'd sit down and watch myself. But that's why people have 'on' and 'off' buttons. Choosing what people should watch—that's not the business we're in."

In Detroit, WTVS Channel 56 was going to delay the broadcast until 11:30 p.m., then decided not to air the documentary altogether. The programming manager was quoted as saying, "...it's definitely not family viewing."

The National Association of Black and White Men Together, meeting in Detroit, organized a protest in reaction to the film stance taken by the station, which lead to WTVS Channel 56 President Robert Larson and Vice President of Communications Paula Sulinski agreeing to meet with gay activists.

Despite the willingness of the majority of the staff at the Detroit station to broadcast the film, Larson decided the film's depictions and descriptions of sexual activity made it "an issue of suitability...to allow that language to go on the air doesn't do our station credit."

Representatives from the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation (GLAAD), the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays (NCBLG), the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the NABWMT and the NABWMT national co-chairs meeting with Larson and Sulinski resulted in an agreement that programming concerning black gay issues is appropriate for the station.

Larson remained unmoved about showing *Tongues Untied* in July, but agreed to work with community representatives "to find suitable programming." He proposed the possibility of hosting a focus group that would reflect the WTVS viewing audience to view the video.

The conference participants organized a sizeable picket line at WTVS studios on June 28, bringing attention to the lack of visibility of gay people of color in broadcast media in general, and the struggle to air *Tongues Untied* in particular.

In Atlanta, the showing became the second highest rated program in local public broadcasting history, after the PBS series on the Civil War.

The Georgia media had generated a great deal of publicity about the program as it is Riggs's home state. Atlanta activist Maurice Franklin told BLK that "folks were shocked by *Tongues Untied*," but impressions made by the program ran deep, with the community making an all out "phone assault" to call the stations airing the broadcast to reaffirm their support.

Between 800 and 1000 calls had poured into Georgia Public Television and Atlanta Public Television before and after the showing. The calls at last report were running about 50/50 for and against the program.

In Milwaukee, however, WMVS/WMVT channels 10/36 decided that Wisconsin just wasn't ready to admit that black gay men exist. Acting general manager Bryce Combs asked that an edited version of the video be provided with "offensive" language and scenes be deleted. While there is no actual frontal nudity or sex in the video, some of the descriptions of anal sex were "just too graphic" for "community standards."

The descriptions of rampant prejudice, racist and homophobic violence, marginalization and dehumanizing of black gay men were not acknowledged as offensive, although Combs agreed that "lifestyle messages need to be told."

The Milwaukee Gay/Lesbian Cable Network blasted the decision as "racist, homophobic censorship," and are negotiating to bring the video to public access cable.

Riggs dismissed the criticisms offered by stations as to why they could not show the video, telling BLK, "these people have no notion of what black gay men are about or feel."

"For me, none of this is discouraging, as some of our issues are finally on the agenda...They have to acknowledge our experience," Riggs commented to BLK. He was especially appreciative of the assistance of many non-gay, non-black groups who fought to keep *Tongues Untied* on the air. "It's very empowering for me to see many organizations, *ad hoc* groups, institutions, coming in to support the work," he said.

In Houston, the Southwest Alternative Media Project, DiverseWorks Artspace and the Community Artists' Collective have negotiated with the Museum of Fine Arts to present the video on Thursday, Aug. 1 at 7:30 p.m. for free.

In Tampa, an unprecedented meeting of WEDU's community advisory board vetoed the video after seeing only the first 20 minutes.

"It is a real sensitive film," said spokesperson Christina Beyer for corporate communications, "and people who saw it at the station hope that its audience will find it. This is not New York, and it makes no sense to pretend it is something else. We factored the community standards and felt this film was not acceptable."

"The question such critics never ask," retorted Riggs, "because the answers are profoundly revealing, is: *whose* community and *whose* standards?"

Sixty percent of all the calls received at WMFE, Orlando, Fla., were against showing the film, but the board of trustees stood behind station manager Ben Hardcastle, who said, "we have a commitment to air controversial material."

The controversy flaired in the arts and entertainment section of newspapers across the country until it ended up in the editorial pages as well.

Conservative columnist James J. Kilpatrick asked, "Why does the NEA persist in this kind of grossly offensive 'art.' There is no way *Tongues Untied* could qualify as a production with 'substantial artistic and cultural significance'."

Atlanta Constitution critic Dick Williams told Georgia to "listen up ...You must not leave your television or VCR to vomit," encouraging viewers watch what "their" taxpayers dollars had presented, assuming they would agree with him that the documentary was "without a doubt, the most explicit, profane program ever broadcast by a television network."

Williams said "the program belongs in a homosexual bath house and Mr. Riggs has every right to show it there. He has no right or legitimate claim to 'our' tax dollars or 'our' networks."

Williams's own paper, however, in its editorial noted that in light of the controversy, "all the more reason to applaud Atlanta's two public stations, WPBA and WGTV, for having the courage to air it. For *Tongues Untied* is television of high quality.

"This does not deny anyone the right to be shocked or offended by the film. But the outcry against it does bear examination. What seems to upset people like the Rev. Donald Wildmon is less the dirty words and homoerotic images than the fact that public funds have been expended to offer a positive portrayal of a lifestyle they regard as an abomination...For those with eyes to see and ears to hear, it is a work of high moral purpose."

Riggs noted that, "minorities might be granted the right to speak and be heard, but only if we abide by the 'master codes' of courteous speech, proper subject matter, conventional aesthetics and 'mainstream' appeal. Disobey this often unwritten rule and you risk banishment into cultural oblivion."

Riggs referred to a work of James Baldwin that described the "aim of white Americans was to refashion the Negro face after their own, and failing that, to make the black face 'blank'."

Riggs continued, "straight America, black as well as white, now demands much of the same of homosexual men and women: to win majority acceptance, we are asked to represent ourselves in ways which, in effect, reaffirm the majority's self-image of privilege. The alternative is erasure."

While many of those defending the broadcast admitted they had trouble with the content, a few suggested that the film might "backfire" against the black gay community. Courtland Milloy, writing in the *Washington Post*, expressed his fear that, "by ignoring the heterosexual audience, the film misses a chance to contribute to changing the hostile climate that keeps black homosexuals in their closets. Achieving that goal should have been a priority." He offered that, "Riggs's film would have been more useful if he had dealt more fully with community attitudes that force black gay men to perpetrate such frauds." Milloy summed up his feelings on the film and Riggs's HIV status by stating, "by the time Riggs is ready to make a film that might help viewers like me better understand gay guys like himself, it could be too late."

Veteran critic Rosenberg had a much firmer grasp on the purpose of the video, and the controversy surrounding its airing, saying, "It is poetic, lyrical, poignant, funny, rapping, street-talking raw art that may, however, nourish homophobia even as it seeks to drive a spike through its heart. That remains to be seen."

On the furor over content, Rosenberg said, "but even *The Love Boat* had more sex and, on any given day, your favorite daytime soap opera is infinitely more sizzling.

"The difference is that the loving, gentle contact here is between men."

Rosenberg boldly, stated what few newspapers remembered to mention, "Kilpatrick had not seen *Tongues Untied* when he wrote that Riggs's award-ladden film was 'grossly offensive.'

"The Rev. Donald E. Wildmon... hadn't seen it either when he promised that most of the nation would find it 'offensive'."

Rosenberg pointed out, in regard to the reactions of the television stations, "the dropout total affirms one of the depressing ironies of PBS: that many inside the system have little understanding of what public TV is about, oblivious to the fact that its mandate is to challenge viewers, not sedate them."

Conferred *Washington Post* staff writer David Mills, "The only thing *Tongues Untied* promotes is a deeper understanding of our world. Viewers who think they simply can't deal with the sight of two shirtless men rolling around in bed in slow motion, well, perhaps they should consider this an instructive dose of reality."

The unexpected attention from the nationwide sensationalism around the two-year-old video came at an inopportune time for Riggs, working to finish his feature length documentary, *Color Adjustment*. The follow-up to his *Ethnic Notions* will throw the black images on prime time television back into America's face. Riggs has also been awarded his third NEA grant—for another film on homophobia, sexism and racism—promising that there will be plenty for the self-appointed watch dogs of America to complain about for some time to come.

Black Men's Xchange Holds First Retreat

COMPTON—The Black Men's Xchange, (BMX) held its first annual national retreat and conference July 12-14.

In the forefront of business conducted, the Oakland chapter of the organization was designated to become the BMX national headquarters. The Denver and Minneapolis chapters were welcomed as the newest branches of the organization.

"BMX is now able to forge a national agenda of black gay empowerment," said Joe Hawkins, who will run the national office in Oakland.

There were about 30 representatives from various chapters attending the retreat, the first gay event of this magnitude to be held in Compton.

"We as black gay men and women should not be subjected to (alienation) from our own people," noted Robert Jones from BMX/Sacramento. "We have a lot to offer our community. We are intelligent, we are talented, we are caring and all we want to do is come back home and work with people we are about."

Jones and Hawkins have given the Sacramento chapter a high visibility in the region, interfacing with black non-gay organizations.

After breakfast, participants attended a number of workshops focusing on the development of BMX: outreach and recruitment, development strategies for new chapters, organizing speaker's bureaus and getting local political groups to include a black gay agenda.

Greg Coleman, chair of the conference's host chapter, BMX/Los Angeles, said, "We have been very successful at creating avenues of communication between black gays and lesbians and the mainstream African-American community and are confident that this will lead to a more empowered black community."

Following dinner, the participants attended a presentation of *Fierce Love*. The Sunday session dealt largely with HIV issues and planning for the next retreat.

Cleo Manago, founder and organizer of BMX described the group as, "Afrocentric, meaning black in concept, design and implementation, and taking a holistic approach, designed to aid in healing the external as well as the internal wounds that years of denial and unacceptance has caused us to heap upon ourselves."

Pannell Cops Ward 8 Seat

WASHINGTON—Phil Pannell has been elected chair of the Washington Ward 8 Democratic Committee, defeating several other widely known politicians. Pannell will now have a seat on the Democratic Party State Committee, only the fourth gay person to do so.

His first action on the citywide state committee, said Pannell, will be to introduce a resolution calling for an appeal of the District sodomy law.

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BLK

Black Caucus Gets AIDS Information

BY MARK HAILE,
BLK ASSOCIATE EDITOR

WASHINGTON—A Capital Hill hearing room was packed on July 16 for the unprecedented meeting of the U.S. Congressional Black Caucus on AIDS in the African-American community.

While a scheduling conflict with the Democratic Party prevented most members of the Congressional Black Caucus from attending personally, most sent aides, or were briefed in full before hand and later on. The individual rating records of the Caucus make it one of the highest ranked groups among members of Congress on AIDS related issues.

The purpose of the briefing was to have the Caucus as a whole take on a leadership role in bringing HIV treatment, education and other services into the African-American community.

The briefing was organized and chaired by Rep. Maxine Waters (D-Calif.) with Anita Taylor, director of the public policy program of the National Minority AIDS Council and the assistance of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention and Belinda Rochelle, health issues lobbyist of the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force. Also speaking at the briefing were Reggie Williams, Executive Director of the National Task Force on AIDS Prevention; Brenda V. Smith, National Task Force on AIDS Prevention; Dr. Janet Mitchell, Chief of Perinatology, Harlem Hospital; Harlon Dalton, of the National Commission on AIDS; Rashidah Hassan, founder of Blacks Educating Blacks About Sexual Health Issues; and Dr. Wibert Jordan, of Drew-King Medical Center in Los Angeles.

Rep. Waters was pleased with the level of commitment that members of the Black Caucus are offering in HIV issues. "I think you find good support here," Rep. Waters told BLK. "We walked away with members willing to take this issue on as their issue." She said that HIV issues will be a prominent topic at the Congressional Black Caucus Weekend, where legislative strategies will be hammered out in depth.

Waters noted that there are no members of the Caucus who have introduced anything less than sensible legislation on HIV related issues. She saw the coalition building around HIV concerns picking up steam, pointing out the participation of Rep. Connie Morella (R-Md.) who has introduced legislation on women and HIV.

"The impact of AIDS on the African-American community will be catastrophic if we do not begin to address critical health care issues," said Rochelle at the briefing. "We need a voice and we need leadership."

Anita Taylor was pleased to see the issue of HIV more out of the committee structure and onto the "front burner" position. "My goal was to get together the leaders to take the initiative, to take a leadership role," she told BLK.

Rochelle concurred that the Congressional Black Caucus is "Very much in our corner when it comes to our issues." The briefing was hardly an overnight success, the groundwork having been laid shortly after the February release of the controversial Veterans Administration's HIV study.

In virtually all of the testimony offered, activists pointed out the speed at which HIV has risen to being one of the major causes of death for women, for infants, and as restated by Dr. Mitchell, "The most disenfranchised of the disenfranchised." She noted the chilling effect government cutbacks have had in public hospitals, such as her own Harlem Hospital Center where 20 percent of the patients at any given time are there for HIV related conditions. She was quite familiar "that medicine was not and is not exempt from institutional racism." She reiterated that "the problems in our health care delivery system that AIDS brings to the forefront have existed for decades. If AIDS was to disappear tomorrow, these problems would still exist."

Reggie Williams charged, "The African-American community as a whole remains in a state of widespread denial around the existence, much less the exploding incidence of HIV infection within its ranks." To counter that denial, Williams said that, "Such education must begin at the top from the most visible, important leaders in the African-American community. That means you."

Williams, exasperated at being distracted from the course of carrying out his job of HIV education because of the timidity of government officials in discussing how to save the lives of black gay men testified, "Homophobia is like an elephant in the living room of the black community's home, which everyone must deal with in their daily comings and goings, but which no one will discuss."

Rep. Donald Payne (D-N.J.), exemplified how an individual member of the Congressional Black Caucus was already well acquainted with how HIV has impacted his home district, which includes the cities of Newark and Orange. Rep. Payne was among the first members of the Caucus to convene a hearing of local organizations, health care providers and activists in March to bring testimony to Washington on how HIV has so disproportionately impacted the black community.

As Taylor repeated from her testimony, "This should only be the beginning of a powerful union between our elected national leaders and our advocates for adequate health care and social change."

BMX in Denver Charges Racism

DENVER—A letter from the Denver Black Men's Xchange to local media has charged the Matchmaker, a downtown Denver dance club, with racial discrimination and condoning "the use and distribution of illicit drugs."

While the charges of racism are not new, said BMX, the form of discrimination is. Allegedly, staff members are applying a one-drink minimum in an un-even manner, ejecting black patrons who do not immediately purchase a beverage.

Matchmaker manager Pete Keegan was surprised at the allegations, denying any policy aimed at black men. The staff has been directed to keep hustlers out of the bar, as well as any one suspected of dealing drugs, he said.

The downtown bar is in the vicinity of Denver's crack alleys, an area popular with young prostitutes.

Black Men's, Women's Retreats Planned

LOS ANGELES—United Lesbians of African Heritage has announced a retreat, Sistahfest, for the Oct. 4-6 weekend. The event, themed "On Common Ground," will include sports, games, ceremonies, poetry readings, cultural activities, workshops and entertainment. Dancing on Saturday night's "Club ULOAH" will be provided by well-known "Claudette Sexy DJ."

Sistahfest will take place at the Cottontail Ranch in a secluded canyon above Malibu, with a capacity of 200 participants.

Organizers have made very attempt to make the event as accommodating as possible to women with special considerations. A variety of vegetarian and non-vegetarian meals will be provided and ULOAH has a scholarship program to assist as many women as possible to attend.

That same weekend, the Black Gay Men's Retreat will take place at Camp Seely Valcrest in the San Bernardino mountains. The men's retreat, limited to 60 black gay men, will allow ample time for leisure activities between workshops on self-esteem, sexuality, self-empowerment and heterosexism, among other topics.

Leisure activities will include hiking, archery, swimming and volleyball, with a Saturday night talent show and dance.

More information on Sistahfest is available at 213-960-5051, and for Brother to Brother at 213-666-5495.

Mason Quits Council Race

BOSTON—Abner Mason announced an early withdrawal from the race for the Boston City Council on July 26. The first openly gay African-American in that city to run for elected office, a number of factors apparently contributed to his decision to formally withdraw.

The Boston Board of Elections had received 897 verified signatures as of July 31, of the 1,500 necessary to run for an at-large city council seat.

Mason's candidacy was further complicated by his being an upfront Republican, which many activists vocally found problematic at best, or hypocritical at their most vitriolic.

Mason received many important endorsements in his first bid for public office, including that of city councilor David Scondras, the Log Cabin Republican Club, the Coalition for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights and the Massachusetts Gay and Lesbian Political Caucus.

Mason has endorsed Roxbury District 7 city councilor Bruce Bolling, considered a front runner in the race. Mason said he had met with Bolling, and found him to be an "established and accomplished advocate" of African-Americans as well as lesbians and gay men, and would work on behalf of his campaign.

CDC July Statistics on AIDS Cases in U.S.

	White (not Latino)		Black (not Latino)		Latino		Asian/Pacific Islander		Amer. Indian/ Askan. Native		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MALE												
Gay and bisexual contact	74,866	80	18,088	44	11,566	46	836	82	144	62	105,741	65
Straight IV drug use	6,170	7	14,637	36	9,700	39	32	3	27	12	30,641	19
Gay and bisexual contact, and IV drug use	6,830	7	3,220	8	1,700	7	24	2	37	16	11,823	7
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	1,242	1	105	0	120	0	17	2	8	3	1,497	1
Straight contact	690	1	2,838	7	428	2	9	1	5	2	3,976	2
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	1,806	2	379	1	229	1	46	5	2	1	2,471	2
Other and undetermined	2,034	2	1,912	5	1,289	5	57	6	9	4	5,344	3
Male subtotal	93,638	100	41,179	100	25,032	100	1,021	100	232	100	161,493	100
FEMALE												
IV drug use	1,971	41	5,341	56	1,901	50	15	16	18	53	9,263	51
Hemophilia and coagulation disorder	28	1	6	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	38	0
Straight contact	1,425	30	3,134	33	1,412	37	33	35	9	26	6,035	33
Receipt of blood transfusion, blood components or tissue	997	21	324	3	197	5	28	30	4	12	1,554	9
Other and undetermined	343	7	691	7	252	7	17	18	3	9	1,311	7
Female subtotal	4,764	100	9,496	100	3,766	100	93	100	34	100	18,201	100
Total	98,402		50,675		28,798		1,114		266		179,694	

Source: "Adult/Adolescent AIDS Cases by Sex, Exposure Category and Race/Ethnicity Reported through June 1991, United States," U.S. Centers for Disease Control. HIV/AIDS Surveillance Report, July 1991.

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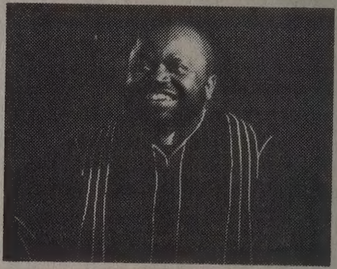

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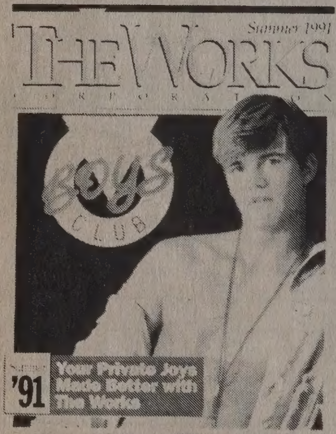

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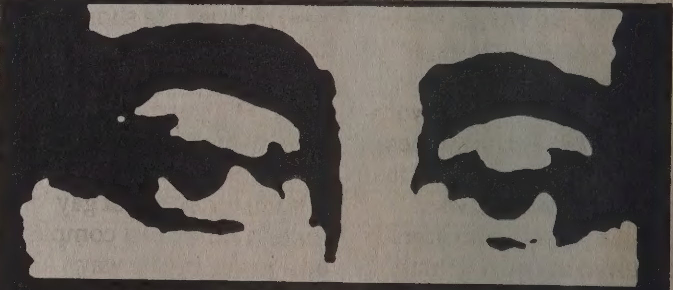

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BOOKS

BY ALAN E. MILLER

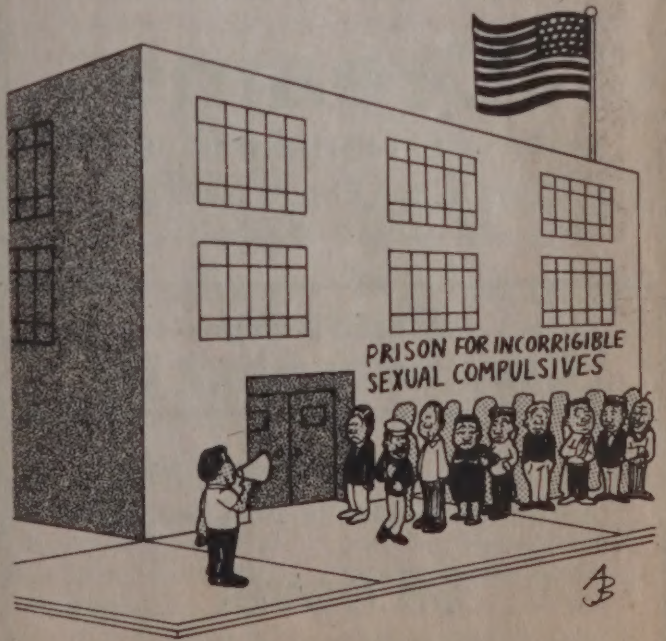
In this new column, I plan to review some books at length, others rather cursorily, but I do intend to give each a thorough reading. (That some of them will be *read* more thoroughly than others is one of the hazards and delights of reviewing them. More on that later.) I'll use this space to pass on inquiries for writers, gossip about the books that writers are planning and to announce signing tours and public appearances. This column is a response to a need, to the reality that more black lesbians and gays and others are writing and publishing books of interest to our community.

So far most of the books I've received are by men, but I really want to know and review writing by women. And I'd also like to hear from women interested in being reviewers. It was women writers who literally nurtured my own writing. While a high school student in Chicago, I met State of Illinois Poet Laureate Gwendolyn Brooks through a contest she sponsored at my neighborhood library. Shortly thereafter, I met Sonia Sanchez, who insisted on taking me to readings, mostly benefits for the Black Panthers, Mark Clark, Fred Hampton, *et al.* As a high school teacher, and as a lifelong reader and writer, I'll be writing what I believe we need to hear and know about the state of books.

Conferences have become increasingly important to us. The National Black Gay and Lesbian Conferences have become increasingly valuable to writers and other artists. It's a place of networking, sharing and encouragement. The Out/Write Conferences (sponsored by *Out/Look* magazine) boasted a strong black lesbian and gay presence, last year perhaps more than this year, in which some attendees complained that Latinas and Latinos seemed to be the flavor of the month. Remember the statement that Joe Beam and Barbara Smith presented to that National Conference of Black Writers three years ago? I have recently read a dynamite short story by Randy Boyd, a writer I met at this year's Out/Write. His short story "Hostage" is included in *Certain Voices*, an anthology of "short stories about gay men." (Randy just completed a novel, by the way, which is now making the rounds of the publishers.) Randy's story describes what happens when a brother tries to return home as a gay man to a family that has always belittled him. The protagonist brings along a gun to make sure that everybody's listening. Y'all hear?! The anthology, edited by Darryl Pilcher and published by Alyson Press for $8.95, also includes a short story by Larry Duplechan, whose main character laments in his contribution that "just a week ago Thursday I was chicken." Indeed!

Another writer I met this spring at both BGLLF and Out/Write, Steven Corbin, encouraged me to look closely at *Breaking Ice: An Anthology of Contemporary African-American Fiction* (edited by Terry McMillan, Penguin Books, $10.95 paper). What I found was that at least five of the 57 contributors were openly gay or lesbian—not to mention another seven or eight who are rumored to be on the q.t. Besides Corbin's own story, Becky Birtha has a funny, insightful offering about a black lesbian who is coming of age—could her "Johnnieruth" be the beginning of a longer work? I hope so—and Samuel Delany, Melvin Dixon, and Randall Kenan also are included. (Birtha's new book of short stories, *Lover's Choice*, Seal Press, $8.95, which opens with her contribution to *Ice*, just arrived and will be reviewed in the next column.) By the way, novelist Kenan (*A Visitation of Spirits*, Grove Weidenfeld, 1989) reviewed Dixon's novel *Vanishing Rooms* (Dutton, $18.95) in a recent issue of *Emerge* magazine. I won't lie and say I can't put it down, but I will tell you that I didn't want to. More later.

School will be starting soon so it's a good time to discuss children's books. Alyson Press is now publishing a line of very important books for children, appropriately called Alyson Wonderland Books. These include two books by Michael Willhoite,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Daddy's Roommate ($14.95), and a coloring book called *Families* which sensitively and humorously depicts many types of families, including gay and lesbian families, families of all ethnicities, extended families and families created by divorce—not to mention the bluejay and duck families. Hmmmmm. This series has already received a great deal of favorable publicity. Leslea Newman has also written two books for them, *Heather Has Two Mommies* ($6.95, paper), and *Gloria Goes to Gay Pride* ($7.95, paper). These books are doing a great job of depicting many types of gay people, including us! The most interesting, written by two white lesbians, Ann Heron and Meredith Maran, is called *How would you feel if your Dad was gay?* The illustrations depict a black gay male couple who share custody of two children, a boy and a girl. It was really heartwarming to read this book, to see those pictures. Reading these books with your children, your siblings, your nieces and nephews is what will bring the revolution closer to reality. I do wonder, however: How many of us black gay and lesbian writers are writing for this market, for our community in this way? Write and let me know.

The next anthology is my favorite. *BloodWhispers: L.A. Writers on AIDS* contains many types of writing—poems, eulogies, memoirs, performance pieces, short fiction—and its contributors are, reflecting the spread and impact of the disease, all kinds. Terry Wolverton edited this moving and often startling collection that features pieces by Mark Haile and Ayofemi Folayan; published by Silverton Press, it sells for $7.95. This is a wonderful book. Buy it. Read it. Buy more of them and give them away!

Finally, as most of you are aware, *Brother to Brother* (Alyson Books, paper, a steal at $8.95) is here and there and everywhere. Essex Hemphill, Marlon Riggs and myself staged a very successful reading from the collection in San Francisco. (Marlon stuck a gardenia behind his ear while reading Charles Henry Fuller's short story "The Jazz Singer," which I quickly called a "dangerous precedent.") It was great fun. With many more readings to follow in bars as well as bookstores, who knows what will happen? Essex will be zipping around the country to spread the word. *Brother to Brother* is the number three selling gay book in the United States now and will soon be starting a second printing. There's meat for your table in this anthology. It's all there, all four food groups. This important book isn't just poetry and stories, but essays, interviews, and a very useful bibliography of books, journals and periodicals by black gay authors and publishers. Within two days of receiving the book, I had completed it. We're all here, including Rory Buchanan, the star reader of this year's *Brother to Brother* reading at the BGLLF. (Rory, by the way, should be finishing his book soon.) I'd like to personally thank contributor Don Charles for giving me something to read.

'Til next time, keep reading and writing.

MUSIC

BY D. J. MARIUS

Linsey

LINSEY
"Perfect Love"
(Virgin)

The well traveled territories of jazz and R&B get a fresh take on life from the performing duo Linsey. Love is the theme brought forward, not only on the album, but in real life as well. A strong love of music united their talents, and a stronger love united Lynne and Wayne Linsey in marriage.

Their debut album, *Perfect Love*, is an excellent showcase for what has become, for both, a varied musical career. Lynne, a graduate of the Berklee School of Music in Boston, has recorded with Anita Baker and Nancy Wilson. She has also toured with Stevie Wonder and Bill Withers. Wayne started playing in night clubs at the age of 14, and studied later at Howard University. He first recorded with the band Starpoint, then with Bobby Brown and the Winans. He then went on the road with, among others, Aretha Franklin and Randy Crawford.

A pleasurable listening experience, the album is also a family affair. Wayne plays most of the album's instruments, and Lynne supplies the lead vocals and handles the vocal arrangements. On the superb cut "Searchin'," her voice echoes the soft, innocent sensuality of Patrice Rushen and Minnie Riperton.

The introspective "It's Not A Waste Of Time," which features a passionate guest vocal turn from Withers, has gotten considerable radio airplay. Other standouts include the laid back "Bring It Back," and the touching "U R Loved."

BRAND NEW HEAVIES
"Brand New Heavies"
(Delicious Vinyl)

Take five talented musicians: saxophonist Jim Wellman, drummer/keyboardist Jan Kincaid, percussionist/guitarist Lascelles Gordon, guitarist Simon Bartholomew, and bassist Andrew Levy. Add a modernized version of vintage 70s funk, and you have the London-born quintet the Brand New Heavies. Mixing the funk with a dance music edge and components of "acid jazz," the band has quickly become a popular live act within England's club curcuit, playing with groups such as Soul II Soul and the Pasadenas.

A strong retrospective feel is apparent, not only in the band's style of dress, but in musical attitude as well. Featured vocalist N'Dea Davenport adds an element of soulful credibility. Her clear, strong singing style provides a sultry touch to the funky jazz mix.

Some great instrumental pieces are to be found here, but the album's more solid cuts feature Davenport's vocals. Check out the album's strongest track, "Never Stop," and "Ride In The Sky," which echoes Tower of Power's best work. This debut project is definitely worth listening to—you may end up believing that the Brand New Heavies are, as their press material states, "what the future should sound like... love, having a good time, and raw, pure funk."

INNOCENCE
"Belief"
(Chrysalis)

British soulsters keep coming fast and strong on the American music scene. The debut album by Innocence, *Belief*, shows the strength of the Brits to reinterpret the African American art form known the world over as soul music.

This impressive first effort from London's up-and-coming production team of Anna and Mark Jolley and Brian Harris has a strong dance feel, while maintaining a constant R&B energy. This holds true the band's aim to create music as listenable as it is danceable.

Providing an outstanding vocal performance, lead singer Gee Morris takes the record to another level. Morris started singing at 14 and clearly has the talent to become one of music's reigning divas.

Full of songs for every mood, some of the album's highs include the dancefloor-friendly first single, "Let's Push It," (don't miss the remix!) and the pulsating anti-apartheid cut "Natural Thing." The jazzy, brooding "Silent Voice," Morris explains, speaks to "the silence of children, innocent parties who can't do anything for themselves in an adult world."

THE RULES OF THE GAME

BY EMANUEL

The other day I was thinking about the first job I had when I moved to the big city. Little me, young, cute and ready to start my career with one of the largest companies in the state. My first day on the job I walked into this huge room and there sat about 45 young women and four ancient old men. You know, the grandfatherly type.

After about four days on the job, I started hearing little rumors that Janice liked me. Then I heard Belinda liked me. Then Cheryl. Of course the usual questions followed. Are you married? Do you have a girlfriend? Do you date? You "gotta" car? I was quite nervous answering these questions, yet I was flattered at the same time.

The kind women just threw their hands up in the air and finally asked, "Are you a faggot?"

I had no idea what to do when all of these women started liking me. At the time, I still had one foot stuck in the closet door. To me, my career was on the line. I thought revealing my sexual preference at the time could have been detrimental to my future advancement with this company.

Yeah, I know, there are some of us that learned to snap and say "Miss Thing" as soon as we peaked out of that closet. You thought liking boys and being a sissy went hand in hand. (Let me assure you that this article is definately not a condemnation of effeminate men. To each his own).

I can remember at 13 discovering how good it felt to lay on top of my buddy, Raymond.

Well, Raymond figured that since he liked boys, this was his ticket to twisting his hips, trying his sister's nail polish and make-up on, snapping his fingers, bringing his voice two decibels higher and still saying, "Oh, my mother doesn't know I'm gay." Soon the whole neighborhood was saying, "That boy is going to grow up to be a punk." Child—the neighborhood was right.

Anyway, back on the job. One day I was invited to lunch by four of the women. I knew I should have declined because I figured this was "Let's Dissect Him Day." I was scared to death. How do I tell them? What do I say? Will they run back and tell everyone? Should I start "flaming" and let them figure it out for themselves? Well, I'm not too happy to let you know now—I lied. Told them my girlfriend lived in another state and I was totally devoted to her. I sat my sister's picture on my desk—thank goodness we don't look alike—gave her a new name and told everyone this was my "old lady." After a while, they started to ask when was she coming to visit...

Today, I definitely would handle that situation differently. I'm older, more established and quite comfortable with my homosexuality. Now I can sit you down, let you know my sexual preference and have you standing up cheering, ready to walk the picket lines for lesbian and gay rights.

My past experiences have taught me not to hassle younger gays that are still in the closet. They too have their future to think about and are still uncomfortable with the world knowing whom they sleep with. I, too, felt that that was not the time to "come out."

I've been told by some gay activists that I should let my employer and whoever else know about my sexual preference from day one. I disagree. I never hear heterosexuals letting their preference be known from jump street. That old saying "There is a time and a place for everything" holds true in this instance. Did you let your college buddies know right off that you were gay? The first day on the job, did you let your employer know? No, most of us waited until we gained their confidence and respect.

Of course sometimes things are better left unsaid. Example: as I turned thirtysomething I realized my body needed a facelift. I looked around and chose a health spa which suited my needs—boys, boys, and more boys. I have become quite friendly and close with some of the guys at the spa and they think I'm just another one of the boys. Mind you, these are young men you'd forsake house, car, job, family, and dog for. They ask me to work out with them, to "spot" them, and "Did you see that 'fine mama' on the aerobics floor?"

A couple of them have asked me to go to"straight" clubs with them. One has asked me out to lunch twice, and another wants me to meet his wife and baby. Kenny (not his real name) has asked me if I've dated any of the women at the spa or in the church that we both belong to. What am I supposed to say, "No, but I've been wanting you though!"?

Yes I'll admit, I first started talking to Kenny because he is simply gorgeous. I just don't feel it is necessary to "out" myself with him or anyone else at the spa. I didn't put on a butch-act to gain their acceptance. I never commented on the women's fine asses either. I have simply been myself.

The bottom line is, when you feel absolutely comfortable with yourself and the people around you, then you hold your torch up like "Miss Liberty." "Out" yourself when you get ready.

Now I must stop here to go pick up my 16 and 19-year-old nephews who just the other day asked me how many girlfriends I have...

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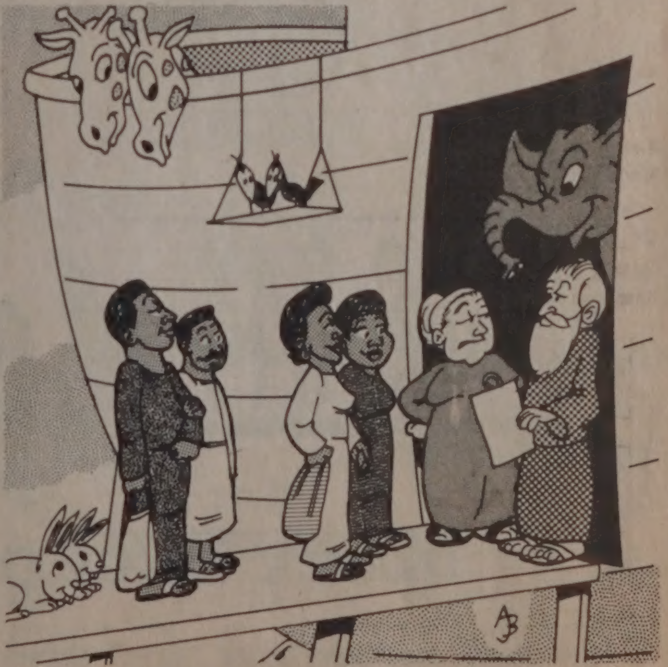
READ MY LIPS

BY PRESTON E. GUIDER

With **Whitney** beating her on the charts and **Whitfield** routing her on the screen, **Miss Ross** has long needed a new plan. And, now Lynn Whitfield cops a Best Actress Emmy? What *is* that we smell burning?...**Denis Carney,** one of the dreadlocked heartthrobs at the National Black Gay and Lesbian Conference, appears in *The Black Bag,* a British TV production about homophobia in black and Asian communities...Meanwhile back in Massachusetts, **Abner Mason** and his partner of six years, **Joseph White,** spoke at a rally in support of a state bill that would legalize marriage between same sex couples. Mason was an openly gay candidate for the Boston City Council... Why is it we seem to be the only ones who were upset with a display at San Francisco's multi-AIDS agency gift shop, whose proceeds go help, among others, homeless people with AIDS? The T-shirt in question says in bold print, "No, I don't have a quarter"... Washington's **Brass Rail** donated $1,175 to **ICAN** last month. The money was collected from patrons during the club's live shows...International Mr. Leather **'D' Cannon,** back from judging the first deaf leatherman contest in Dallas, has now raised $26K in his first month in office...But in Atlanta, money matters are different. With sluggish ticket sales and no big money sponsors, "That's What Friends Are For" AIDS benefit concert originally scheduled for Aug. 2 was canceled. **Dionne Warwick, Anita Baker, Gladys Knight, Robert Townsend, the Dells** and **Jonathan Slocumb** had been set to appear. Look for a new date in the spring...**M*Thang,** the black gay rock trio, performs at the Center's Outmusic Coffee House in Manhattan Sept. 15...***Paris Is Burning*** has become a big hit in Chicago with full house crowds at the Fine Arts Theater quoting lines (*Rocky Horror Picture Show*-style) along with the actors on the screen. Looks like we have our own cult classic movie now. The question is not whether you've seen it, but how many times...Also in Chicago, beloved activist **Calvin Holmes** was given the mother of all going away parties at the expansive south loop loft home of **Kevin Hoover** Aug. 17. Hundreds wished Cal well as he begins graduate school studies at Cornell University this fall...For 45 years, **Randy's Record Shop** of Gallatin, Tenn. was the primary sponsor on midnight-to-dawn broadcasts of soul and gospel music on the 50,000-watt mid-South WLAC HQ'd in Nashville. Anyone who wanted Negro music in the 1950s-60s-70s heyday of AM radio while driving late at night in the Eastern U.S. knew **DJ John R** was the only choice, and he promoted the station as being "on the air, everywhere." On Aug. 15 Randy's Record Shop closed its doors for good, out of business... We've never been sure of the difference between hip hop and house, but in San Francisco, according to **Queer Nation** at least, HIP HOP stands for "Homos into Promoting Homos on Parade"...If you're in Phoenix suffering from the heat —and who isn't—then mosey on down to **GD's Rendezvous** and watch **Mr. "Q"** show off his invisible tan line. As long as you're gonna be hot, you might as well get hot...BWMT/Memphis hosted a showing of ***Tongues Untied*** at the Memphis Main Library. Their health committee reports, by the way, that they can't keep the condoms in stock at the **Apartment.** Guess we know where the hot, healthy and horny (and smart) men are going...When **Warren Sims** and his entourage showed up at the studio for the taping of the *Montiel Williams Show* a few weeks back, they were *warned* by a staff member that the evening's show was about lesbians and gay men. The staff member was duly set straight—so to speak—over protestations that he couldn't believe they were queer. Someone at the show ought to school the support staff real quick...And finally, here's one for you. What famous black gay poet spent a weekend together with what white gay photographer?



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Railroad Crossing*, 6640 E. 8 Mile, Detroit, MI 48234, 313-891-1020.

Shopper's Lounge****, 25 E. Grand River, Detroit, MI 48226, 313-961-1916.

TNT Health Club**, 13333 W. 8 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48235, 313-341-5322. Bathhouse.

MISSISSIPPI

Interchange**, 200 N. Mill St., Jackson, MS 39201, 601-353-2041.

MISSOURI

Magnolia's Restaurant and Bar*, 5 S. Vandeventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-6500.

Nites II*, 212 N. Vanderventer, St. Louis, MO 63108, 314-652-3123.

NEBRASKA

Our Fantasy*, 3201 S. Hillside, Wichita, NE 67216, 316-682-5494.

NEW JERSEY

First Choice**, 533 Ferry St., Newark, NJ 07105, 201-465-1944.

Murphy's**, 59 Edison St., Newark, NJ 07102, 201-622-9176.

Rascals*, 611 Hick St., Asbury Park, NJ 07712.

NEW YORK

Clit Club**, 101 Avenue A, New York, NY. Tuesdays only.

Clit Club**, 432 W. 14th St., New York, NY, 212-406-1114. Fridays only.

Hatfield's*, 126-10 Queens Blvd., Kew Gardens, NY 11415, 718-261-8484.

Hideaway*, 87-36 Parsons Blvd., Jamaica, NY 11432, 718-657-4585.

Kellers****, 384 West St., New York, NY 10014, 212-243-1907.

Mt. Morris Baths***, 1944 Madison Ave., New York, NY 10035, 212-534-9004. Bathhouse.

Nite Spot**, 201 Windsor, Jamestown, NY 14701, 716-483-3456.

Octagon****, 555 W. 33rd St., New York, NY 10001, 212-947-0400.

Rage**, 369 Central Ave., Albany, NY 12206, 518-432-1108.

Red Zone**, 440 W. 54th St., New York, NY 10019, 212-582-2222.

Sally's Hideaway*, 264 W. 43rd St., New York, NY 10036, 212-221-9152.

Tunnel Bar***, 116 First Ave., New York, NY 10009, 212-777-9232.

Two Potato***, 143 Christopher St., New York, NY 10014, 212-255-0286, 212-242-9304.

NORTH CAROLINA

Lynn's**, 213 Hillsboro, Fayetteville, NC 27278, 919-485-4350.

OHIO

Carl's Place***, 303 W. 5th St., Cincinnati, OH 45202, 513-621-5021.

Flex Complex*, 1293 W. 9th St., Cleveland, OH 44113, 216-696-0595. Bathhouse.

Porky's**, 1946 St. Clair Ave., Cleveland, OH 44114, 216-861-1299.

PENNSYLVANIA

BJP***, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-747-

4953.

Brandy's Bistro*, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-747-4958.

Club Body Center, 120 S. 13th St., Philadelphia, PA 19102.

Penny's Playhouse, 5300-02 Market, Philadelphia, PA 19139, 215-471-5778.

Studio 124**, 124 N. 4th St. Reading, PA 19601, 215-373-9079.

SOUTH CAROLINA

Candy Shop**, 1903 Two Notch Rd., Columbia, SC 29204.

New Attitude**, 706 W. Washington St., Greenville, SC 29601, 803-233-1387.

TENNESSEE

Apartment****, 343 Madison Ave., Memphis, TN 38103, 901-525-9491.

Family Affair***, 875 Vance Ave., Memphis, TN 38126, 901-527-0672.

TEXAS

Crew*, 309 W. Market St., San Antonio, TX 78205, 512-223-0333.

Crossing*, 611 Red River, Austin, TX 78701, 512-476-3611.

Mother's**, 402 Lovett St., Houston, TX 77006, 713-520-7935.

Paper Moon*, 1430 N. Main, San Antonio, TX 78212, 512-225-7330.

Studio 13***, 1318 Westheimer Rd., Houston, TX 77006, 713-521-9030.

WISCONSIN

Hot Spot**, 2249 N. Humboldt Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-264-1718. Blackest on Sundays.

Molly & Oscar's**, 405 Tower Ave., Superior, WI 54836.

Phoenix**, 235 S. 2nd St., Milwaukee, WI 53204, 414-278-9727.

ORGANIZATIONS

BRAZIL

Grupo Gay da Bahia, Caxia Postal 2552, 40.020 Salvador, Bahia.

CANADA

Black Coalition for AIDS Prevention, 55 McCaul St. #221, Toronto, ON M5T 2W7 ☎ 416-971-7588.

Black Gay and Lesbian AIDS Discussion, Box 55, Sta. F, Toronto, ON M4Y 2L4 ☎ 416-926-0063.

ENGLAND

African/Caribbean Black Lesbian Group, Hackney Women's Centre, 20 Dalston Lane, London E8 ☎ 071-254-2980.

Birmingham Black Lesbian and Gay Group, London ☎ 021-622-7351.

Birmingham Black Lesbian Group, Birmingham Women's Advice and Information Centre, Devonshire House, High St., Digbeth, Birmingham B12 0LP ☎ 021-773-6952.

Black Communities AIDS Team, Leeds City Council, Health Unit, Selectapost 14, 2nd Fl. Annexe, Civic Hall, Leeds LS1 3AQ ☎ 053-462431.

Black HIV/AIDS Forum, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-385-5955.

Black HIV/AIDS Forum, AIDS Unit #6003, Town Hall Extension, Manchester, M60 2JB.

Black HIV/AIDS Network, 106-108 King St., London W6 0QU ☎ 081-741-9585.

Black Lesbian and Gay Centre Project, Tottenham Town Hall, Annexe B, Town Hall Approach Rd., London N15 4RX ☎ 081-885-3543.

Blackliners, Box 74, London SW12 9JY ☎ 071-673-1695.

Camden Black Lesbian Group, 54-56 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.

City of London Anti-Apartheid Group, BM City AA, London WC1N 3XX ☎ 01-837-6050.

Fusion, London Lesbian and Gay Centre. ☎ 071-358-1486.

Haringey Black Action, BM 4390, London WC1N 3XX.

Lager Black Lesbian/Gay Support Group, Southbank House, Black Prince Rd. #205, London SE1 7SJ ☎ 01-587-1643 or 01-587-163.

Leicester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Michael Wood Centre, 29 New Walk, Leicester LE1 6TE ☎ 053-355-9995.

Lesbian and Gay Black Group, 40 Theobalds Rd., London WC1 ☎ 01-678-6606.

Let's Rap, c/o Dennis Carney, 47d Lorn Rd., London SW9 0AB ☎ 071-737-3881.

Light Skinned and Mixed Race Black Lesbian Group, London ☎ 01-885-3543.

Manchester Black Lesbian and Gay Group, Box 153, Manchester M60 1LP.

Nottingham Black Lesbian Group, Nottingham Lesbian Centre, 30 Chaucer St., Nottingham NG5 1LP ☎ 060-241-1475.

Onyx, 86 Caledonian Rd., London N1, England. ☎ 01-837-3337 or 071-837-2783.

Peckham Black Lesbian Group, Peckham Black Women's Centre, 69 Bellenden Rd., London SE15 ☎ 071-358-1486.

Young Black Lesbian Group, Lewisham Young Women's Project, 308 Brownhill Rd., Lewisham ☎ 081-698-6675.

Young Black Zamis, Camden Lesbian Centre, 52-54 Phoenix Rd., London NW1 ☎ 071-383-5405.

GHANA

Club De Le Gayes, c/o Enos Jeffreys, Bubuiashie-Atico, Box 3879, Accra ☎ 224-412.

Gay Liberation Group of Nkawkaw, c/o Festus Owusu Sekyere, Box 282, Nkawkaw-E/R

SOUTH AFRICA

Gay and Lesbian Organization of Witwatersrand, Box 23297, Joubert Park, Johannesburg 2044 ☎ 11-837-6413, 442-9066 fax.

Organization of Lesbians and Gay Activists, Box 7315, Roggebaai 8012, Cape Town.

Society for Homosexuals on Campus, Box 23017, Joubert Park 2044, Johannesburg.

SWEDEN

Africa Information Pool, RFSL, c/o Alfred Machela, Box 350, S-101 24, Stockholm.

ZIMBABWE

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe, Box UA 425, Union Ave., Harare.

CALIFORNIA

Adult Children of Alcoholics, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.

African-American Gay and Lesbian Cultural Alliance, 6709 La Tijera Blvd. #484, Los Angeles, CA 90045, 213-641-5643.

African-American Lesbians 40+, 415-465-2573.

African-American Men's Health Project, 74 New Montgomery St. #600, San Francisco, CA 94105, 415-597-9137.

Afro-Centric Support Group, San Diego, 619-263-8196. HIV positive support group.

Al-Anon for Black Gay and Lesbians, 1268 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-995-2581.

Alcoholics Anonymous/People of Color, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949.

Alcoholics Anonymous, Women's Self Acceptance, Crenshaw Alano Club, 4323 Leimert Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90008.

Beyond the Bars, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-936-4949.

Bisexuals of Color Caucus, San Francisco, CA, 415-821-3534.

Black and White Men Together/Los Angeles, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-136, W. Hollywood, CA 90046, 213-664-4716.

Black and White Men Together/San Diego, 2936 Lincoln Ave. #1990, San Diego, CA 92104, 619-528-1815.

Black and White Men Together/San Francisco, 2261 Market St. #506, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-931-BWMT.

Black Coalition on AIDS, 726 Broderick St., San Francisco, CA 94117, 415-931-3031, 415-553-8197.

Black Community AIDS Research and Education Project, 1283 Franz Hall, Los Angeles, CA 90024-1563, 213-206-5162.

Black Gay and Lesbian Leadership Forum, 2538 Hyperion #7, Los Angeles, CA 90027; Box 29812, Los Angeles, CA 90027, 213-666-5495.

Black and Gay for Life, Box 8081, Culver City, CA 90233.

Black Gay Men United, Box 20624, Oakland, CA 94620, 415-653-5880.

Black Gay Men's Coalition for Human Rights, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-3398.

Black Gay Men's Rap Group, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-274-3398.

Black Lesbian Support Group, 415-839-3302, 415-653-5732.

Black Lesbians Support Group at Connexxus, 1017 N. La Cienega Blvd., #110, W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-652-3894.

Black Lesbians Under 25, 415-864-0876.

Black Men's Support Group, Berkeley, CA, 415-841-6224.

Black Men's Xchange, Los Angeles, 213-281-7742.

Black Men's Xchange, Sacramento, 916-454-0516.

Black Men's Xchange, Box 32005, Oakland, CA 94604, 415-839-9318.

Blacks Living with HIV Infection, ARC and AIDS, 213-666-5493.

California Rainbow, Box 3805, Los Angeles, CA 90051.

Cocaine Anonymous, Jewel's Catch One, 4067 W. Pico Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90019, 213-734-8849.

Early Advocacy and Care for HIV, 625 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-864-1214.

Gentlemen Concerned, Box 712298, Bunker Hill Sta., Los Angeles, CA 90071.

HIV Survival Group for People of Color, IKUNU Program, 220 N. Euclid Ave. #130, San Diego, CA 92114, 619-527-2477.

Kupona Network, 3220 Sacramento St., Berkeley, CA 94702, 415-665-2830.

Ladies Concerned, Box 37036, Los Angeles, CA 90037.

Lapis/Alcoholism Center for Women, 1147 S. Alvarado St., Los Angeles, CA 90006, 213-381-7805.

Lesbians and Gays of African Descent, Box 89174, San Diego, CA 92138, 619-294-6515.

Lesbians of Color Against Abuse, 415-621-8684.

Lesbians of Color Support Group, Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley, CA 94705, 415-548-8283.

Los Angeles Black Lesbians and Gays, 213-758-7018.

Makeda, Box 78785, Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-935-4105.

Men of All Colors Together/Bay Area, Box 811, Oakland, CA 94604, 415-261-7922.

Minority AIDS Project, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-936-4949.

Multicultural Alliances for Prevention of AIDS, 6025 Third St., San Francisco, CA 94124, 415-822-7500.

Multicultural Lesbian Writers Group, San Francisco, CA, 415-995-2730.

Multicultural Prevention Resource Center, 1540 Market St., San Francisco, CA 94102, 415-861-2142.

National Association of Black and White Men Together, 584 Castro St. #140, San Francisco, CA 94114, 415-431-1976.

National Task Force on AIDS Prevention of the National Association of Black and White Men Together, 631 O'Farrell St., San Francisco, CA 94109, 415-749-6700.

Oakland Black Gay Political Association, 924 E. 20th St. #2, Oakland, CA 94606.

People of Color AIDS Survival Effort, 3177 Ocean View Blvd., San Diego, CA 92113, 619-231-9300.

Project WARN, 5601 W. Slauson Ave. #200, Culver City, CA 90230, 213-641-7795.

Racism and Homophobia in the Media Project, 30 Gardenside #6, San Francisco, CA 94131, 415-641-5706.

Rafiki Services Project, Box 11908, San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-553-8806. AIDS support group.

Rap of Lyff, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-465-1193.

Regional Black Lesbian Conference Planning Committee, 213-753-4475.

Rue's House, Box 37036, Los Angeles, CA 90037, 213-295-4030.

Third World AIDS Advisory Task Force, Box 6182, San Francisco, CA 94101, 415-864-4376.

United Colors of Queer Nation, San Francisco, 415-821-6108, 415-985-7141.

United Lesbians of African Heritage, 1626 N. Wilcox St. #190, Los Angeles, CA 90028, 213-960-5051.

Unity Fellowship Church, 5149 W. Jefferson Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90016, 213-936-4948.

Women of Color Project, 1370 Mission St., San Francisco, CA 94103, 415-621-0505.

Womyn of Colors, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038, 213-464-7400, ext. 205.

X-Calibre Club, 9001 Keith Ave., W. Hollywood, CA 90069, 213-274-6272.

Z and Z Productions, 4153 Garden Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90039.

COLORADO

African-American Gay Men's Group, Gay and Lesbian Community Center of Colorado, 1245 E. Colfax #319, Denver, CO 80218, 303-831-6268.

B-A-Pal, 1525 Josephine St., Denver, CO 80206, 303-388-5862.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver, CO 80218, 303-320-4602.

Black Gays and Lesbians United Against AIDS, Box 18974, Denver, CO 80218, 303-399-0329.

Black Men's Xchange, 1512 E. 14th Ave., Denver, CO 80218, 303-837-1530, 303-831-6268.

CONNECTICUT

Lesbians of Color, Yale Women's Center, 198 Elm St., New Haven, CT 06520, 203-624-8727.

Men of All Colors Together/Connecticut, Box 2735, Hartford, CT 06146-2735, 203-346-0199 (Mike, in Hartford), 203-497-8538 (Stevie, in New Haven).

DIST. OF COLUMBIA

Best Friends, 202-953-0681.

Bi Black Females, Box 90378, Washington, DC 20005, 202-715-6148.

Black and White Men Together/DC, Box 73111, Washington, DC 20056-3111, 202-452-9173.

Black Lesbian Support Group, 202-797-3500.

D.C. Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gay Men, Box 21543, Washington, DC 20009, 202-488-4771.

D.C. White Lesbians Against Racism Everywhere, 202-332-7338, 202-332-0202.

Faith Temple, 1313 New York Ave., N.W., Washington, DC 20005, 202-544-2766.

HIV Support Group for African/American Men and Women, Whitman-Walker Clinic, 1407 S St., N.W., Washington, DC 20007, 202-797-3591.

Impact/DC, 300 I St., N.E. #300, Washington, DC 20002, 202-546-7228.

Inner City AIDS Network, 912 Third St., Washington, DC 20001-2511, 202-789-ICAN.

Intergroup Minority Project: AIDS Consortium and Trust (IMPACT), 300 I St., N.E. #301, Washington, DC 20002, 202-5-IMPACT.

National Coalition for Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 19248, Washington, DC 20036-0248, 202-389-1094.

National Minority AIDS Council, 300 I St., N.E. #400, Washington, DC 20012, 202-544-1076.

FLORIDA

Bay Area Men of All Colors Together/Tampa, Box 2911, Tampa, FL 33601.

Black and White Men Together/Tallahassee/Big Bend, 411 Chapel Dr., Box 226, Tallahassee, FL 32304-3321 904-681-9499.

Black Support Group, Jacksonville, FL, 904-630-3237. For those HIV positive.

GEORGIA

African American Lesbian and Gay Alliance, Box 50374, Atlanta, GA 30302, 404-755-7731.

Black and White Men Together/Atlanta, Box 1334, Atlanta, GA 30301-1334, 404-794-2968.

Outreach, 741 Piedmont Ave., N.E. #500, Atlanta, GA 30308, 404-873-5992.

Zami, 404-315-7684.

ILLINOIS

Men of All Colors Together/Chicago, 4753 N. Broadway #1200, Chicago, IL 60640, 312-334-2012.

Brotherrs Projects, 6540 S. Woodlawn Ave., Chicago, IL 60637, 312-667-8313.

Chicago Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 378068, Chicago, IL 60637, 312-667-5632.

Chicago Lesbians Emerging Against Racism, 3712 N. Broadway #202, Chicago, IL 60613.

Committee of Black Gay Men, Box 7209, Chicago, IL 60680-7209, 312-248-5188.

Committee to Increase Black Gay and Lesbian Awareness, Box 64816, Chicago, IL 60664-0816.

GREAT (Gay, Racially Equal, and Together) Men, Box 7209, Chicago, IL 60680-7209, 312-248-5188.

Image Plus, 5354 N. Kenmore St., Chicago, IL 60640.

Informed and Connected, Box 64816, Chicago, IL 60664-0814, 708-515-5515.

Kupona Network, 4611 S. Ellis, Chicago, IL 60653, 312-536-3000.

INDIANA

Black and White Men Together/Indianapolis, Box 88784, Indianapolis, IN 46208, 317-271-9446.

KANSAS

Topeka Coalition, 2641 S.E. 11th St., Topeka, KS 66607.

KENTUCKY

Black and White Men Together/Louisville, Box 1838, Louisville, KY 40201, 502-772-3025.

MARYLAND

Baltimore Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 618 W. Franklin St. #6, Baltimore MD 21201.

Black and White Men Together/Baltimore, Box 22472, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-225-9386, 301-542-3317.

Black Coalition of Lesbians and Gay Men, 3835 Reisterstown Rd., Baltimore, MD 21218, 301-542-6218 (Goldie), 301-669-4192 (Irv).

Blacks United for Gay and Lesbian Equality (BUGLE), Box 13429, Baltimore, MD 21203, 301-547-1829 (Brenda).

MASSACHUSETTS

Men of All Colors Together/Boston, 62 Berkeley St., Boston, MA 02116.

Multicultural AIDS Coalition, 566 Columbus Ave., Boston, MA 02118, 617-536-8610.

Revolutionary Sisters of Color, Box 2798, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130.

MICHIGAN

Black and White Men Together/Detroit, Box 248831, Detroit, MI 48224, 313-864-1154.

Essence of Choice, Box 23367, Detroit, MI 48232.

Full Truth Faith Fellowship Church, 19700 Woodward Ave., Detroit, MI 48203-1528, 313-366-2400.

Lesbians and Gays Against Racism, 312-744-4152.

Project: Survival, 15212 W. 7 Mile Rd., Detroit, MI 48235-2820, 313-567-7272.

MINNESOTA

Women of Color Stir Fry, 612-729-1360.

MISSOURI

Black and White Men Together/Kansas City, Box 412432, Kansas City, MO 64141, 816-931-4470.

Blacks Assisting Blacks Against AIDS, Box 150531, St. Louis, MO 63115, 314-367-0191.

Lesbians and Gays of Color, c/o Phoenix Books, 6 W. 39th St., Kansas City, MO 64111, 816-931-6822.

NEBRASKA

People of All Colors Together/Omaha, 2211 Jones St. #1F. Omaha, NE 68102.

NEW YORK

African American Wimmin United for Societal Change, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-620-7310.

Black Lesbian, 2130 First Ave. #2601, New York, NY 10029, 212-565-8365.

Bronx Lesbians United in Sisterhood, Box 1244, Bronx, NY 10462, 212-829-9817, 212-409-1131.

Brooklyn Lesbians Together, 718-636-5297.

Brooklyn Task Force on AIDS, 718-596-4781.

Carribean Women's Health Association, 244 Utica Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11213, 718-826-2942.

Club F, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-491-7228.

Committee on the Visibility of Other Black Women, 2130 First Ave., New York, NY 10029, 718-565-8365.

Gay African Americans of Westchester, 172 Ravine Ave. #3D, Yonkers, NY 10701-1843, 914-376-0727.

Gay, Bisexual, Lesbians of Color, Cornell University, 535 Willard Straight Hall, Ithaca, NY 14853.

Gay Men of African Descent, 80 Varick St., New York, 10013, 212-226-4433, 212-226-4462.

Gay Men of the Bronx, 1 Fordham Plaza #800, Bronx, NY 10458.

Haitian Coalition on AIDS, 50 Court St. #605, Brooklyn, NY 11201, 718-855-7275.

Lavender Light, 178 Clermont Ave., Brooklyn, NY 11205, 212-222-9794.

Lesbian and Gay People of Color Steering Committee, 212-562-3131, 212-505-0506, 212-995-8585.

Lesbians and Gays of Flatbush, Box 106, Brooklyn, NY 11230, 718-859-9437.

Majority Action Committee, ACT-UP, Box 7932, New York, NY 10150.

Mama Doesn't Know! Productions, 208 W. 13th St., New York, NY 10011, 212-245-6366, 212-827-6350.

Men of All Colors Together/New York, Box 1518, New York, NY 10023, 212-245-6366, 212-222-9794.

Men of Color AIDS Prevention Program, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.

Minority Lesbian and Gay Physicians and Medical Students, c/o Gene Nakajima, 155 E. 29th St. #19-H, New York, NY 10016, 212-213-9471.

Minority Task Force on AIDS, 92 St. Nicholas Ave. #1B, New York, NY 10026, 212-749-2816.

New York Black Women's Health Project, Box 401037, Brooklyn, NY 11240, 718-596-6000.

New York Chapter of the National Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, Box 1399, New York, NY 10026, 718-622-3576.

Other Countries, Box 3142, New York, NY 10008, 212-505-0506.

Parents of Color and Our Families, 718-596-7979.

Sister-to-Sister, New York, NY, 718-596-6000. HIV positive support group.

Study Group on Black Lesbians, Lesbian Herstory Archives, Box 1258, New York, NY 10116, 212-874-7232.

VOCAL, c/o Office of Gay and Lesbian Health Issues, Dept. of Health, 125 Worth St. #601, Box 67, New York, NY 10013, 212-566-4995.

NORTH CAROLINA

Black and White Men Together/Charlotte, c/o Woody Mitchell, 2116 Shade Valley Rd. #AB, Charlotte, NC 28205-7357.

Black and White Men Together/Triangle, Box 3411, Durham, NC 27702, 919-490-1555.

Black and White Men Together/Yadkin, Box 3434, Salisbury, NC 28145.

Triangle Coalition, 604 W. Chapel Hill St., Durham, NC 27701.

Triangle Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, BPW Club Rd., #A-11, Carrboro, NC 27510, 919-933-6548.

OHIO

Black and White Men Together/Cleveland, Box 5144, Cleveland, OH 44101-0144, 216-371-4597.

Black and White Men Together/Columbus, Box 151276, Columbus, OH 43215, 614-221-2734.

Black and White Men Together/Youngstown, Box 1346, Youngstown, OH 44501, 216-782-3483.

Cleveland Coalition of Black Lesbians and Gays, 216-851-6624.

Living the Dream, 1277 Brookwood Pl., Columbus, OH 43209, 614-252-4226.

Men of All Colors Together/Cincinnati, Box 2205, Cincinnati, OH 45201-2205, 513-751-7659.

OREGON

Black Lesbians and Gays United, Portland, OR, 503-231-5034.

PENNSYLVANIA

ADODI/Philadelphia, Box 15755, Philadelphia, PA 19103-0755.

Black and White Men Together/Pittsburgh, 1007 Franklin Ave., Pittsburgh, PA 15221.

Black and White Men Together/Philadelphia, Box 42257, Philadelphia, PA 19101.

Black Gay Archives, Box 30024, Philadelphia, PA 19103.

Blacks Educating Blacks about Sexual Health Issues (BEBASHI), 1528 Walnut St. #1414, Philadelphia, PA 19102, 215-546-4140.

Les Femmes Unies, Box 42833, Philadelphia, PA 19101, 215-657-5130.

Unity, Box 53617, Philadelphia, PA 19105, 215-642-8661, 215-545-6162.

TENNESSEE

Black and White Men Together/Memphis, Box 42157, Memphis, TN 38174, 901-726-1461.

Black Gay and Lesbian Alliance for Dignity, Box 1921, Memphis, TN 38101, 901-327-3943, 901-948-2345.

TEXAS

Cousins of the Heart, 2701 Reagan, Dallas, TX 75219, 214-526-6221.

Ebony Connection, 227 Congress Ave. #125, Austin, TX 78701; Box 1428, Austin, TX 78767, 512-326-8363.

Men of All Colors Together/Dallas, Box 190611, Dallas, TX 75219, 214-357-7898, 214-871-0819, 214-521-3146.

WASHINGTON

Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Youth of Color Discussion Group, 4620 S. Findlay, Seattle 98136, 206-632-0500, 206-322-7900.

Men of All Colors and Cultures Together, Box 12348, Seattle, WA 98111-4348, 206-325-9833.

People of Color AIDS/HIV Support Group, Seattle, WA, 206-322-AIDS.

People of Color Against AIDS Network, 1200 S. Jackson #25, Seattle, WA 98144, 206-322-7061.

WISCONSIN

Black and White Men Together/Milwaukee, Box 12292, Milwaukee, WI 53212, 414-265-8500.

Black Gay Consciousness Raising, Box 93694, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-933-2136.

Club Muse, Box 93694, Milwaukee, WI 53203, 414-291-0766 (Nate).

I've always said,

"If I ever got AIDS, I don't know what I'd do."

I was right.

Nobody ever plans on getting AIDS. And that makes it all the more devastating.

But if fighting the most tragic and least understood killer in the world today seems more than you can bear alone, remember, there's someone out there who wants to help.

AIDS Project Los Angeles.

We're confronting AIDS on every side. But our first and foremost concern is for those who have Human Immunodeficiency Virus. They're the reason we initially set up our AIDS Hotline in 1982, and soon followed up with a buddy program and counseling.

Of course, people with AIDS need more than just companionship.

They need to understand the disease. That's why we offer guidance on living with AIDS. Updates on insurance issues. Advice on faith and spiritual matters. And counseling on chemical dependencies and other addictive behaviors that often complicate an AIDS diagnosis.

Now as if the mental and physical drain of AIDS isn't enough, there's also the financial drain. So we provide essentials like food, clothing, and dental services to those in critical need.

Of course, the fight against AIDS isn't only between the disease and those who have it.

It's everyone's problem.

That's why we promote public awareness. Try to educate those who feel they don't need it. And demand that the Government of the United States approach AIDS just as it does every other major disease.

At AIDS Project Los Angeles, people discover courage and strength they didn't know they had. But before we can help, they have to do one simple thing.

Call 213-962-1600 and talk to someone who cares.

Having AIDS can be a frightening experience, which is all the more reason it shouldn't be a lonely experience.

AIDS
PROJECT
LOS ANGELES

AIDS Project Los Angeles would like to gratefully thank the following contributors. Concept and design by Chiat/Day/Mojo, Jim Weinstein, Doug Schumacher and Rich Bess. Production by David Nickel, Patti Rawlins, Tony Jenson, Joe's Type Shop and Reproduction Quality Services. Media Planning by Media Ranch.

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BLK MARKET

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Gospel musicians wanted for African-American group. Need lead and bass guitar, keyboards and drum. Call 714-788-9490. (33)

Study of long-term lesbian couples. Been together 2 years or more? You and your partner will fill out an interesting questionnaire which takes under 40 minutes. Research results provided. To participate, call Deborah at 718-398-2248, collect or leave message. Your help is appreciated. (32)

Have bought a car from a car dealer that has advertised in the gay press? We want to ask a few questions. Any dealer. Any gay paper. Done over the phone. You can remain anonymous. Takes about 3 minutes of your time. Call 213-410-0808. Ask for Alan. (32)

For black or African-American gay and lesbian Christians who wish to correspond with others, Across the Miles has been created. This correspondence program will enable people to share what God is doing in their lives, spiritual discoveries made, questions regarding scriptural passages or living the life as a Christian, and prayer requests. This program is not a matchmaking service, but it is possible to meet others through correspondence. Across the Miles is a non-denominational enterprise, and is not affiliated with any established Christian church or religious organization. Those people interested in corresponding should send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Across the Miles, 5217 Hollywood Blvd. #401 Hollywood, CA 90027. Attn: James-Imani. All inquiries will be quickly replied, and all information is kept confidential. (32)

Wanted: Sierra Domino Newsletter back issues. Photocopies okay. Willing to pay reasonable fee, costs of photocopying and postage. Need issues 1, 3, 5 and 7, and any published after issue 22. Call Alan Bell at 213-410-0808, or write BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (32)

Opportunity for financial freedom if you have the courage to call. 708-216-9719. 24 hour. (37)

SERVICES

Sex therapy. 800-660-1428. (35)

24-hour Crisis Hotline. Professional help is just a phone call away now! Depression, anxiety, AIDS-related mental/emotional problems. Other psychological problems. 1-800-444-9999. The Open Quest Institute. Serving our community since 1978. (33)

ORGANIZATIONS

Outreach for couples. Support the positive aspects of alternative lifestyle relationships thru social informative events held twice a month in San Diego. For more info, call Steve/Keith at 213-283-6243 or Kate/Kim at 213-475-4407. (35)

Hairy men/admirers. Bears/trappers. Nationwide explicit adlistings. Infopak $3.00: Hair, 59 W. 10th, NYC 10011. (34)

Lambda Alumni invites all UCLA and UC alumni, students, friends, and anyone who supports our efforts to provide a positive force for change at UCLA, to attend a general meeting on Aug. 20, 1991 at 7:30 p.m. This meeting is for all current members and any other interested gay men, lesbians, and friends. For more information and directions to the meeting location call 213-281-7927. Lambda Alumni was formed in May 1989 by UCLA's gay and lesbian alumni for the purpose of creating a conducive learning environment for gay men and lesbians on the UCLA campus and a forum for social interaction. These goals are achieved through activities such as academic scholarships, lecture series, and career networking. (33)

Singles club forming in San Francisco for African-American gay men who want to meet and date other African-American gay men. BLK Mailbox #140. (33)

EMPLOYMENT OFFERED

Accounting Assistant. Duties include data entry, typing, filing, phones, sorting mail and performing accounting research. Applicant must be knowledgeable of accounting principles and possess spreadsheet and word processing skills. Good organizational skills a plus. 1-2 years previous experience. Salary: $20,000 a year plus benefits. Submit resume to: Personnel, Gay and Lesbian Community Services Center, 1213 N. Highland Ave., Los Angeles, CA 90038. The Center is an affirmative action, equal opportunity employer. (33)

Advertising Salesperson to represent BLK. Work where your income reflects your energy and ability. Experience preferred, but will train the right person. Your own hours. Top commission paid. Women especially encouraged to apply. Call 213-410-0808. Or write BLK, Box 83912, L.A., CA 90083. (33)

Counselor. The nation's only lesbian and gay inpatient chemical dependency treatment center is seeking a skilled CD Counselor. The position requires a B.A. and ICDP certification or eligibility advantageous. If recovering, a minimum of 2 years of verifiable continuous sobriety is required. Must be sensitive to the needs of lesbian/gay patients. Qualified applications send resume to: Joseph Neisen, Program Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. (32)

Development and Legal Assistant. Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, the country's oldest and largest lesbian and gay legal organization, seeks a Development/Legal Assistant for its Los Angeles office. Lambda is a national organization whose work is primarily devoted to test-case litigation of legal issues affecting lesbians, gay men, and people living with AIDS. Since 1973, Lambda has fought to establish legal protection and rights for the lesbian and gay communities in cases as diverse as military discharge; employment, insurance and housing discrimination; child custody and visitation; relationship rights and domestic partnership benefits; access to health care and AIDS-related treatments; and First Amendment rights. Responsibilities: Assist Staff Attorney with management of office and legal program; coordinate West Coast fundraising and membership efforts; recruit and supervise law students for intake and referral; assist with publicity and public education activities; manage volunteer program; participate in community events and forums. Qualifications: Strong organizational, writing, and computer (WordPerfect) skills, a commitment to gay/lesbian rights, and experience with non-profits and fundraising. Please send resume by September 10, 1991 to: Mary Newcombe, Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund, 606 South Olive, #580, Los Angeles, CA 90014. Lambda is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer. Women, people of color and people with disabilities are encouraged to apply. (33)

Inpatient treatment center for lesbians and gay men with chemical dependency. Experience in chemical dependency or psychiatry preferred. Administrative experience desirable, but not essential. Must be sensitive to the needs of the lesbian and gay community. Responsible for supervision of staff, medical evaluations, detoxification, medical quality assurance. Send resume or call Brenda Griffin, Acting Executive Director, Pride Institute, 14400 Martin Dr., Eden Prairie, MN 55344. 800-547-7433. (32)

MD + ADM & RN Needed for new Pas. Com. Clinic. PT or retired OK. Bilingual. Call Dr. Jolly 213-664-5000. (32)

Photo Coordinator wanted to plan, schedule and keep track of photographers and models. Photographers also wanted to do covers and advertising shots. Excellent opportunity to add published work to your portfolio. Call 213-410-0808 or drop a note to BLK, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. (33)

PLACES TO LIVE

Roommate to share 2 bedroom house in Ladera-View Heights area. Quiet neighborhood. Furnished bedroom, share rest of house and yard. Cable TV available. Prefer non-smoker professional responsible male or female 25-35. Rent $450/mo incl. util. Call 213-292-1590. (33)

CALLS FOR SUBMISSION

BMX Denver is seeking submissions of essays and poetry from black gay men as a response to the work of homophobic writer Francis Cress Welsing. Her book, "The Isis Reporter: Keys to the Colors," contains a chapter on the politics of "black male passivity," and give an incredulous theory on the origin of black male effeminization and the "source" of homosexuality. BMX-Denver plans to respond with a body of literature that could be published to counter Welsing's theories. Submissions will be accepted through Sept. 5 further information is available from Rajer at 303-837-1530. (33)

Trashy (but well-written) black gay male fiction wanted for raunchy new bimonthy magazine of black gay erotica. Tasteful work also accepted. Send us hot letters. Relive your exploits. Tell of your fantasies. Send with SASE to Editor, BLACKfire, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912(TF)

Venus Press is seeking single-panel cartoon, strips, and cartoon stories for New Dyke, a book anthology of cartoons by cartoons by, for and about lesbians. Cartoons can be fantasy, soap opera, humor, sci-fi, feminist satire/politics, explicit sex, stories about growing up, coming out, romance, aging, etc. Deadline Dec. 1, 1991. Send submissions and SASE to Venus Press, 7100 Blvd. E., Guttenberg, NJ 07093. Especially seeking cartoons by lesbians of color. (32)

The Pittsburgh International Lesbian and Gay Film Festival is accepting entries in film and video (8mm, 16mm, 35mm, 1/2", 3/4"). The deadline for entries is Sept. 10. All categories welcome. People of all colors strongly urged to enter. Please send properly labeled entries, inclusive filmography with personal statement, $15 entry fee, and return postage to: PILGFF, Box 9007, Pittsburgh, PA, 15224. Contact: Daniel Schott, 412-362-9462. (32)

Independent filmmaker Ann Alter and writer/researcher Laine Goldman are seeking your honeymoon tales for their new documentary film--horizontal mambo and other honeymoon tales. Funded in part by the Ohio Arts Council and the Center for New Television NEA Regional Fellowship program, this feature-length documentary chronicles the romantic passage of the honeymoon and investigative dynamics of a ritual rarely discussed in professional and/or private life. Co-directors/producers Alter and Goldman are asking individuals and couples to share their honeymoon tales from the traditional to the offbeat. Special attention is being made to contact lesbians and gay men, people of color, the physically challenged and seniors. Alter and Goldman also encourage "honeymoon specialists" to share their insights and theories. Lesbian, gay men, people of color and seniors are encouraged to send inquiries, stories and suggestions to Horizontal Mambo Productions, Box 5657, Athens, OH 45701. (32)

The Multi Media Arts Gallery is looking for work by lesbian and gay photographers for a show that will be held at the gallery during Jan. 1992. The work may be documentary, experimental or fine art. Work that is considered sexist, racist or violent in any way will not be accepted. To have your work reviewed by the gallery director photographers should call 212-966-4080 to set up an appointment. (32)

Submissions are now being accepted for Short Fiction By Women, a new magazine publishing the finest literature by women writers. The magazine needs unpublished short stories, novellas and novel excerpts. All women writers, including lesbians and women of color, are encouraged to submit their work. Stories from both unpublished and published writers will be considered. Want top-quality, strong, original short fiction. A short biography/bibliography of each author will be included. Payment will be based on length and funds available. The magazine will own first serial rights only. Writers should submit one typed, double-spaced manuscript and include a SASE for return of manuscript. Send submissions to: Rachel Whalen, Editor, Short Fiction By Women, Box 1276, Stuyvesant Sta., New York, NY 10009. The first issue will be published in the fall of 1991. (32)

Sorority, a new quarterly magazine published by and for gay women, is seeking submissions on subjects of interest to gay women: informative articles, commentaries, profiles, interviews, travel pieces, health issues, short and long fiction, poetry, graphics, drawings, photographs, book reviews, film and video reviews, concert and event reviews, cartoons, drawings, puzzles, community listings and information about upcoming activities. Submissions from marginalized members of our community are particularly welcomed. Maximum word count is 7,500, but 5,000 preferred. Submissions on 3-1/2 in. disk in IBM WordPerfect with hard copy backup preferred, but can accept ASCII format on either 3-1/2 or 5-1/4 in. disks. Typed-only submissions also accepted. All artwork (including photographs) should be in black and white, should not exceed 7-1/4 x 4 in. with either vertical or horizontal layout, and should be camera-ready if possible. Reductions to fit the specified dimensions are acceptable. Include a S.A.S.E. No material that is racist, sexist, ageist, ableist or homophobic in content will be published. Sorority, 1170 Bay St. #110, Toronto, ON M5S 2B4, Canada. 416-462-6665. (32)

At the Crossroads, a new visual, performing and literary journal for women artists of African descent, is seeking submissions of written and visual art. Manuscripts of poetry, short stories, journal entries, experimental writing, radio plays, theatre, interviews, screenplays, transcribed performance pieces, reviews, essays and all other forms of creative and analytical writing are welcome. We want submissions of visual art, including line drawings, sketches, graphics, illustrations, photographs, murals, mixed media, printing, collage, sculpture, quilts, beadwork, textile art, etc. Send black and white photographs or photocopies of work. Do not send your original copy of art work. All submissions should be accompanied by a bio, brief statement about the work and any other relevant information. At the Crossroads is especially interested in receiving submissions from women in the Maritimes region and writers who have not yet been published. Manuscripts that do not arrive with a self-addressed, stamped envelope will not be returned, so send copies only. All photographs will be returned. Send to: Attn. Karen Augustine, At the Crossroads: A Journal for Women Artists of African Descent, Box 317, Sta. P, Toronto, ON M5S 2S8, Canada. (32)

Women with immune system and other systemic disorders--rheumatoid arthritis, lupus, scleroderma, endometriosis, chronic fatigue, multiple sclerosis, chronic asthma, allergies, environmental illness. Submissions sought for anthology of women's experiences living and coping with these illnesses. We are looking for inspiring, cautionary or everyday stories about how your illness has affected your work, family, children, partner, support system, sexuality, self-image, finances, sense of security, physical abilities, spirituality. How has your life changed? What have you learned? For information and Writer's Guidelines send self-addressed stamped envelope to: Canaries in the Mine, 75 Hartford St., San Francisco, CA 94114. Deadline: Dec. 1, 1991. Contributions by women of color especially welcome. (32)

An anthology of writing and artwork by Asian/Pacific lesbians is being compiled by Anne Mi Ok Bruining and Sharon Lim-Hing of Asian Lesbians of the East Coast. The genres are poetry, essays, short stories, autobiography and any artwork that can be reproduced in a book. Themes include but are not limited to the following: identity, sexuality, politics/social constructs, relationships, work/professions/careers, life cycles, disabilities and activities and interests. The deadline is Dec. 15, 1991, and submissions should be sent to Anne Mi Ok Bruining, 41 Shaw Rd., Little Compton, RI 02837. (32)

FOR SALE

Traditional African designs with an American flair. Handmade. Write ANKH Enterprises, African Clothiers, Box 46085, Los Angeles, CA 90046. (35)

Watch five hot black men—each new to video—in solo jackoff. Do it while they do it. Spurt when they spurt. Full length 90 minutes. Rated XXX. Specify VHS or Beta. State and sign that you are over 21. We can send to street addresses only. No P.O. boxes. $29.95 plus $3.05 shipping and handling. Check, money order, Visa, M.C. or Amex. No cash. Nubian Video, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd., West Hollywood, CA 90046. (33)

Skins, the fanzine for kinky uncut men. Free ads. Sample copy: $4 and statement of age. CB&V, Box 97694, Las Vegas, NV 89193. (39)

Exclusively created for black skin: based on ancient Egyptian formulas of rejuvenation our products are made from state of the art natural ingredients. Send $15 for samples and product list to: Temptations! Box 1227, New York, NY 10018. (32)

Gay magazines. Pack of 6 hot used magazines. Just $15. P&H, Inc. Send check or M.O. to Island Marketing, 127 S. Shore Dr., Island Lake, IL 60042, State you are 21. (37)

BLK T-shirts, satin jackets, baseball caps, sweatshirts, key tags, back issues, note cards, etc. now available mail order. Write: BLK Mail and Femail Store Catalog, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912. Or call 800-TRUE-BLK, anytime 24 hours a day, seven days a week. (TF)

MASSEURS

Muscular black ex-marine with strong, sensual talented hands will relieve you of any and all stress, tension, etc. Try me once and you'll be back! Discount to seniors. Friendly service. Dick 619-294-3589 for appt. (34)

Attractive, well-built guy (29, 5'7", 140#), experienced, offers deep thorough relaxing massage to other in-shape guys by candlelight, table, $40 in West Hollywood, $? out. Greg, 213-650-6265. Calls verified. (E)

Randy Cochran. 818-997-3776. L.A.'s hot top black studman. Hung huge, yet versatile. 28, 5'9", 160 lbs., with a tight smooth body. 24-hour, in-out sessions. $125-$200/hr. Video titles include "Black Attack," "Heatwaves," "Black Force" and many more. Visits are in person...Not associated with 976-WOLF. Safe sex okay. (E)

The Real McCoy. Very handsome Italian professional, 29, great body, offers custom-tailored 5-star bodywork to the discerning man. Atmosphere, style, technique and more. Quite simply...the best! 213-288-6800. (E)

DATING SERVICES

Dating service specializing in matching compatible lesbians, gay men, HIV+ men. $40/six months, $60/full year. Unlimited introductions. Matches based on profile, feedback, psychological research on compatibility, personal touch. License: Serving out of Southern California. Chums Introduction Network Service, Inc. 213-461-5664 or 800-231-CHUMS. (33)

WOMEN'S PERSONALS

Oakland California lesbian, 33, spiritual, intelligent, seeks friendships and correspondences of class and distinction. BLK Mailbox #145. (33)

Bi-black male seeking hard body, very dark, bi-black females for safe, sexual, no drug, no smoking, highly sexual encounters with myself and others. Call James, 213-969-4789. (33)

SBM, 40, very dominant arty type, likes straight, submissive bi-ladies, lesbians. No phonies, drugs. I'm hot and kinky. Hurry! BLK Mailbox #124. (E)

Hampton Roads, Virginia area. Single, black bisexual female, professional, 31, in search of feminine lesbian or bi-female for relationship varied interests. No fats, drugs, or marrieds. Photo and note appreciated to BLK Mailbox #121. (E)

Black woman, honest, clean, intelligent, professional, financially secure, optimistic, adventurous, spiritual, lesbian! Send descriptive letter, photo, etc. San Diego. BLK Mailbox #139. (32)

GBF, 25, graduate student, eclectic interests, multi-talented, new to the life, looking to connect with other GBFs from all over, especially Atlanta, Toledo/Detroit, D.C. for friendship and a sense of community. Will answer all. BLK Mailbox #132. (E)

BF, 26, student, not looking for romance through this ad. However, I would like to exchange postcards, short notes or long letters with women from all over. I live in Detroit. BLK Mailbox #107. (E)

Soulful, diamond in the raw, 19, African-American ISO lasting friendships with multi-cultured, positive lesbian sisters USA/abroad (18-?). Will answer all. Maria, 329 Childress Lane, Flora, MS 39071-9740. (E)

Fluffy, feminine, early 40s, fun-loving, witty, sensitive, romantic, who appreciates nature, intimacy, looking for independent butch. I am 5'7½", sexy, plump. Seek friendship first. Who knows what can happen? BLK Mailbox #115. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS INTERNATIONAL

Black Is Beautiful. Young man, 36, 5'10", 120#, blond, blue eyes, calm, serious, serks very strong black bodybuilder. Write with photo: Lambert Pirotte, 43, rue Coplay, 4020 Wandre, Belgium. (33)

German man, 44, 170, seeks black man (top) for friendship. Letter, photo to Box 6526, D-7500 Karlsruhe 1, West Germany. (36)

Black man, 26, seeks penpals. Kofi, Box 482, Dansoman Est. Accra, Ghana, West Africa. (35)

GWM, teddy-bear, seeks dominant black male tops for intimate friendship and fun. Doug, #103-4800 Arbutus, Vancouver, BC V6J 4A5. 604-263-3991. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—AZ

GWM, 62, bottom, 1651 E. Glenn #117, Tucson 85719. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CA

Northern California

HBM, 36, 6'1", 160#, professional, swimmer's build, in good health, HIV-, romantic

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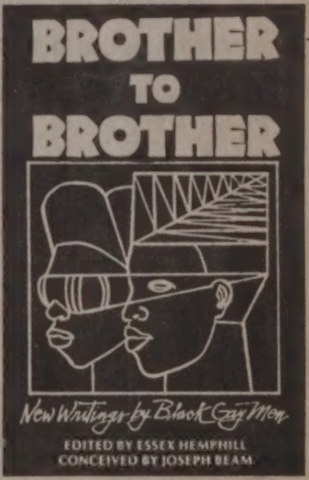
We provide a full range of health services including care for AIDS patients in the comfort of their homes.

LESLIE BURKE R.N., M.P.H., J.D.
DIRECTOR

Black gay men are coming home

After the death of *In the Life* editor Joseph Beam, activist and poet Essex Hemphill carried on in his footsteps with this new anthology of fiction, essays, and poetry by black gay men. Contributors include Assoto Saint, Craig G. Harris, Melvin Dixon, Marlon Riggs, and many newer writers.



BROTHER TO BROTHER

edited by Essex Hemphill
conceived by Joseph Beam

$8.95 in bookstores, or return this ad with $10.00 (postpaid) to order by mail.

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address ______

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THE LEGAL STUFF

■ **Complete and sign the following. None of this information will appear in your ad.**

Name________________________________

Address______________________________

City_________________________________

State________________ Zip______________

Phone (________) ______________________

■ I am an adult of legal voting age and consent to the placing of my ad in BLK. I understand that the Blk Publishing Company is in no way responsible for any transactions between myself and any persons I contact through its publications.

Signed______________________________

THE RATES

■ **Personal ads** of 8 words or fewer are free if this form is used and your ad is sent by mail. No duplicates or copies. More than 8 words, the rate is 40 cents per additional word. Abbreviations are unnecessary since you are charged by the word.

■ **Employment offered ads** may be placed at the rate of 10 cents per word. There is no limit to the number of words.

■ **All other ads** take the rate of 40 cents per word.

BLK MAILBOXES

■ **Mailbox number and forwarding service.** You may have the replies to your *personal or employment offered ad* sent to a BLK Mailbox for $7 per month. Replies are forwarded to you in a plain envelope once a week, for six weeks after your ad appears. Mail may not be picked up in person.

■ **Replying to a BLK Mailbox.** Only letters may be sent to BLK Mailboxes. They may not be used for the distribution of bulk mail or circulars. To reply, address your envelope:

BLK Mailbox #______
BLK Classifieds
Box 83912
Los Angeles, California 90083-0912

THE RULES

■ Deadline: First Friday of the month of publication.

■ Ads received after deadline will appear in the following issue.

■ Open account billing available on approved credit. Terms: Net 10 EOM. Minimum charge is $15. *Credit must be approved in advance.*

■ **Rules and regulations.** *A word is any group of letters or numbers with a space on either side of it.* Free ads may run a maximum of three times, then must be renewed. We reserve the right to reject, rewrite or edit ads including those that advertise or solicit sexual acts considered unsafe by current AIDS criteria. Telephone numbers in ads must be verified prior to publication at a charge of $3 (within California $1). If a number has been previously verified by BLK, attach an ad containing the number to your new ad. Advertiser's complete name, address and authorizing signature must accompany ad. This information is confidential and will not appear in your ad.

BY TELEPHONE

■ You may place your ad by telephone and charge it to Visa, MasterCard or American Express if your order totals $15 or more.

■ Call toll-free 800-TRUE-BLK anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Tell the computer which credit card you have, the card number, expiration date and what you want your ad to say.

BY MAIL

■ Completely free ads may only be placed by mail.

■ Ads that are not completely free may be paid by check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. Do not send cash.

■ Send to: BLK Classifieds, Box 83912, Los Angeles, CA 90083-0912.

BY CREDIT CARD

VISA MasterCard AMERICAN EXPRESS Card

■ Minimum for credit card billing is $15 whether by phone or by mail.

Name of credit card________________ Expires__________

Credit card number____________________________

YOUR AD

■ **Print clearly what you want to appear in your ad. Use a separate sheet if you need more space.**

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■ **Figure cost of ad:**

____ words at 40¢ (8 free if personal ad)	$__________
____ words at 10¢ (employment ads)	$__________
Cost to run ad one month	$__________
Number of times you want ad to run ________	
Total cost of ads	$__________
Phone verification at $3 (within CA $1)	$__________
BLK Mailbox at $7 per month	$__________
One-year subscription at $18 to BLK	$__________
Total enclosed (send no cash)	$__________

and fun-loving. Wishes to meet or correspond with masculine Latino, P.R., Asian, black, 30-?, for friendship and possible relationship. No drugs, fats, fems. BLK Mailbox #144. (33)

GWM, 37, blonde, blue, muscular, bottom, wants GBM, dominant, top, into scenes. Phone sex okay. 1800 Market #230, San Francisco, 94102. 415-775-4919. (33)

TV wanted. Tony, 5337 College #516, Oakland, CA 94618. (35)

Emmette Mitchell, C-22649, C-7-110. Box 29, Represa, CA 95671. (35)

Daytime BJ for masculine, firm, drug-free, HIV- males. Tenderness. Respect expected. Men of color are special treats. Phone and photo appreciated. R.B., Box 21633, Concord, CA 94521. (34)

BM, 41, 5'8", 145, slim attractive, health-conscious, wants to pen-pal with other slim health-conscious black males around the same age. BLK Mailbox #141. (35)

WM, new to East Bay, 43, 185, 6'3", HIV+, non-smoker. Want to meet BM for friendship, love, and/or versatile safe sex. Box 56260, Hayward, CA 94545. (32)

Slender white bottom seeks hung GBM. Oakland area. Box 5294, Pleasanton, CA 94566. (34)

Attractive, muscular black man, 35, 5'11", 220, seeking other big, well-built men of any race between 20-50. French active/passive, J/O, oral body worship. Send letter with photo to 1221 Broadway, Plaza Level #13-131, Oakland, CA 94612. No fems, fats or phonies. (34)

GBM, 33, bottom, seeks top bi or GBM, discreet, bright. Box 70571, Oakland, CA 94612. (33)

San Diego Area

WM, 42, with long tongue and rim chairs seeks BM with bubble butt! Write to Box 1880, Cathedral City, CA 92235. (42)

Attractive black male 39, active French, passive Greek, seeks intelligent, hung top stud for serious relationship and fun. 619-JA1-1341. (40)

Latin professional male seeks masculine top, sincere, honest, non-bar type, no drugs, vices, non-smoker, desires quality long-lasting relationship. 619-295-4531. (35)

You: Hot top GBM. Me: Young Latino. 619-274-0507. (35)

Happy, healthy, and adventurous GBM, seeking sincere monogamous relationship with same. Serious replys only. Send photo with intro letter and phone number if interested. BLK Mailbox #136. (32)

New GBM to desert area. Seeking new friends possibly more. Call Bob, 619-329-7522. (32)

Are you 300 lbs., over 40, any color, reliable friend in San Diego and wish to meet sincere Italian 68, slender, endowed (6"), healthy and educated! Call 619-291-8966. (32)

White man seeks extra hung top. Tom, 619-262-6046. (34)

White hunk, 30, exhibitionist, seeks same. Box 33361 San Diego, CA 92163. (34)

BiBM seeks surfer. Box 126234, San Diego 92112. (35)

Los Angeles Area

Gay black Hispanic male, 41, ostensibly 28, into art and design, foreign films, jazz, and classical music. Attractive, intelligent, and very creative. Multi-faceted and multilingual. Cultivated yet free spirited. Caring and sincere. BLK Mailbox #143. (33)

Masculine black male, 32, 6'0", 150 lbs., seeks masculine, muscular types for friendship and J/O. Any race. No drugs. Robert, Box 1188, South Gate, CA 90280. (33)

BM, 6', 190, attractive, health conscious, romantic, honest, good sense of humor, seeks same, U. no tooth picks pls. fat or fem. 213-931-3412. (33)

Bi cowboy, blonde, goodlooking, hot bubblebutt, masculine, seeks, bi black or any race bodybuilder, macho, jock type. Military gay men okay. To ride this colt. Buck, 213-438-1421. (33)

Grateful, attractive, healthy HIV+, GM, 30s, seeking man of character, warmth, humor and spiritual foundation. Into friends, family, music, movies, dancing, outdoors, sports, sober living, world cultures and unity. RU2? Please write to M.K., Box 661011, L.A. 90066. (34)

BM, HIV- like older WM friends. 2322 Redondo Blvd., L.A. 90016. (35)

Attractive GBM, HIV+, healthy, 5'7", 35, warm, loving and extremely affectionate, seeking a dominant (top)/masculine GBM, well endowed, 6'2" or taller, who enjoys romance, walks on the beach, movies, Bid Whist. and Spades, exercising together and fun times. I'm seeking a serious 1-1 partnership or relationship. If you are serious about spending quality time together, call Mikey 213-508-6220, leave your name and number and I'll call you back. All calls answered. Serious callers only please! (35)

Black L.A. racewalker attending Portland Marathon. Can other runners/racewalkers suggest inexpensive travel/accomodations? 213-882-4987. (33)

GBM: Mid 20's, 6ft, 165lbs, top, HIV-, educated, financially secure, masculine. Seeks similar GWM. Must be under 30, relationship-oriented (a must). No fats/fems/drugs. Rob, 4102 E. 7th St. #632, Long Beach, CA 90804. (33)

This non-stereotype blond Italian, 5'2", green eyes, 129 lbs., seeks very attractive and sensual G-Boy who is interested in more than just a one night. Versatile a plus. Please no obese or effeminate. If interested, call Sandro at 213-978-4018. (33)

Venice Beach. Half Japanese male seeks sincere relationship oriented black male for possibilities. Uncomplicated lifestyles and conversation appreciated. 213-399-2953. (33)

Lets rub until we cum. 213-852-0219. Arian. (35)

Just wanna have fun and beyond. Bi-BM wants to meet women and men. Ken. 213-465-8968. Serious only. (32)

Handsome black man, 35, 195#, well-built, who likes to workout with weights and jog on a daily basis, would like to meet honest, sincere person for friendship, white or hispanic, who loves the outdoors ahd some sports. Rod, 213-938-2004 before 11 p.m. (34)

Very hot butch blond bottom bodybuilder, 33, 5'6", 145, hot throat and ass, seeks dominant top black man. BLK Mailbox #137. (32)

GWM, 40s, seeks (1) super hung blk top man and (1) super hung blk bottom man for hot and safe 3-way sex. Write to Allen, 7985 Santa Monica Blvd. #109-332, West Hollywood, CA 90045. (34)

GBM wanted. Any age. For loving companionship, relationship. Me: GWM 50s, 6', 179 lbs., affectionate, HIV-. Will, 818-362-2022. (33)

If you could date an athletic attractive man, 24, you'd want to do it, correct? If polite and under 25, introduce yourself with a note! Box 3516 Rancho Palos Verdes, CA 90274. (33)

Hot P.R. seeking one in-shape butch blk/Latin hung X-thick. Me: 37, 135#, 5'6". Willie, 213-657-2539. (34)

Fat GBM, 18-30, 250+# sought by GWM. R.A.S., Box 4013 Chatsworth, CA 91313-4013. (36)

Black bodyguard and companion wanted by wealthy GWM, 44, 200#, 8" for night time protection and pleasure on hilltop estate. Guard must be over 6', in shape, (BB pref.) and hung. Guest house, vehicle and salary to right person. Daytimes free. Photo and letter to Guard, Box 91744, City of Industry, CA 91715. (32)

Couple looking safe sex. Box 19543, LAX 90019-0543. (34)

Sexy Oriental TV, 27, wants to collect white jockey shorts. Picture and jockey is a must. You won't be disappointed. BLK Mailbox #138. (32)

Black queen, 38, tits, seeks slender light-skinned black man, thick dick, who is single parent, for dating and romance. I'm into safe sex. Call Nina at 213-480-0008. Please no fats. Must be a masculine gay man who is into queens or must be a bisexual man. Please do not call if you are not into queens. (32)

If you're blk and top man, enjoy getting sucked, well hung and horny, call Jim 818-344-1913. No calls on Sat. (32)

Satisfies loving. HIV- dad. Box 5950-243, Orange 92667. (35)

If you're GBM with a big cock, call Alex 818-896-8890. blond wants to please you. (34)

WM, 33, handsome, will lick young straight smooth black butts anytime and all the time! Large stocky butch guys only. Box 46841, Los Angeles 90046. (32)

Black male to meet hung male days. O.C.C., Box 19002, L.A. 90019. (34)

If you'd like to meet a warm, friendly, goodlooking, 6'1", 180#, 34 year old, GR/P, masculine, relationship minded GWM then write to Box 691943, Los Angeles, California 90069. You should be masculine, 28 to 40 years, top, and willing to take things slow and easy. No drugs please. (32)

Black is sexy and that's what I like. I'm a shy Latino. Call me. Richard, 213-465-8968. (32)

GBM, 28, 6', 165, attractive, light-skinned fun, discreet, given up on finding good solid lover relationship, seeking safe fun with attractive straight/married types for periodic visits. Prefer black, however other races are welcome. Call Steven in Glendale at 818-548-9539. No fats, fems or drugs. (32)

Stunning attractive GBM seeks WM for great times. Robert, 213-937-7622. (34)

Hot white guy to sucks black studs in leather only. R.W., 12021 Wilshire Blvd. ##899, Los Angeles, CA 90025. Photo. (32)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11", 170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 71247, L.A. 90071, 213-656-0528 ext. 22. (34)

Hot, friendly white guy with tight pussy ass needs it regularly/safely spread, filled and deep slow pumped by condomed boyfriend. Richie, Box 5791 Glendale, CA 91221-5791. (32)

Attractive black male, 5'10", 190 pounds, muscle-toned body, 34 years of age, seeks attractive, white male of the same stature or taller for outdoor fun, adventure, and quiet cozy evenings. No j/o calls. Relationship-oriented only. Call before 11 p.m. Ask for Biff. 213-931-3637. (32)

GWM, 25, seeks gay black or Hispanic male, under 30 years old, for dating, friendship and fun. Must have good sense of humor and positive outlook on life. Honesty, stability and romance are also important qualities. BLK Mailbox #142. (32)

Tall, affectionate black male, 33, muscular, "runner's build," seeks beefy, non-smoking white male weightlifter, 28-50, for cuddling. Brion, 929 S. Lake, Los Angeles, CA 90006. (32)

Football player, beefy weightlifter wanted. U—love to cuddle. I—love to massage. We—need to belong. Black man, 41, 5'9", 180, workout. Box 29037, Los Angeles, CA 90029. (32)

Sexy French muscular bodybuilder, 30, 5'10", 175 bubblebutt, green-blue eyes, longs for tall, massive, super muscular, thick, bodybuilder over 200 lbs., any race, for friendship and safe fun. Am discreet, sophisticated. 213-656-2942. (33)

GBM, 41, 5'11", 147, beard & moustache seeks GWM for sincere correspondence. All letters answered. Sumari, Box 69265, Los Angeles, CA 90069. (E)

Discreet professional black male, a body worshipper, seeks muscular, chubby, husky, bodybuilder type men with super, super big thighs & super, super big bubble butt for friendship. 213-933-3098. (E)

Commitment and values: B/M, 38, 5'11",

170, G/P seeks an affectionate tall G/A white or black top man 40-55 who likes 1-to-1, homelife, mountains and stability. Mel, Box 712427, Los Angeles, CA 90071. 213-656-0258 ext. 22. (34)

Sincere, slender black male artist seeks handsome, very aggressive, versatile, sincere, homo erectus, any race. No chubbies, queens or losers. Call 213-661-1431. (33)

Gay male, 37, 5'9", 165 lbs., blue eyes, into classic film, music, sunset walks at the beach, seeks intelligent, aware individual for mutually-fulfilling companionship. Please call Bruce at 213-338-9695. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CO

Caribbean man wants tops with thick dicks. Box 18714, Denver, CO 80218. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—CT

Congenial white male ISO black male. Box 284, Hartford, Connecticut 06141-0284. (TF)

MEN'S PERSONALS—DC

Gay black male, 5'10", 192 pounds, straight-appearing, romantic, would like to meet Canadian or European gay, white of similar characteristics. Must be straight-appearing, stocky or muscular. Will visit Europe this fall. Box 15331, Washington, DC 20003. (32)

GWM seeks GBM hung huge. 202-483-3693. (E)

Single African-American male 26, 5'9" slender, light complexioned, masculine, healthy and intelligent and very conscious. Seeking friendship and correspondence with intelligent serious minded, independent masculine, light skin brother or Puerto Rican brother age 20-29. Let's write with photos and letters to Eric, Box 39215, Washington, D.C. 20016. Peace brother. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—FL

Blk/M, 24, wants to meet males 18-30. I'm 24, 5'5", 170, 8". Tampa and other Florida males write Box 172551, Tampa, FL 33672. (35)

GWM, 39, 5'9", 144, mature, educated, affectionate, seeks non-smoking men of similar age and any race. John, Box 2354, Winter Haven, FL 33883. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—GA

GBM 30 195 seeks J/O partner GBM 24-30. Box 54894, Atlanta, GA 30308. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—HI

You are top, hung, HIV+ and want to enjoy life. Loving home waiting for you in Hawaii. Write: Boxholder, Box 75704, Honolulu, HI 96836. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—IL

Health care provider seeking some special individual to care for me and about me. I'm GBM and a very sweet person to know! Seeking possible long-term relationship accompanied by eurphoric passion. Legal age to 50. Just be fantastic. I fantasize Bo Jackson and Michael Jordan types, especially with brains. I'm a health conscious, realistic individual. Basically quiet—a homebody—not domestic. I love life and people as much as they allow me to. Just one fall back, I have to work at living positively with an HIV+ status. It takes a special person not to turn the other way. Could you be him? If so, contact me. Let's talk. Occupant, c/o Ean C., Box 578323, Chicago, IL 60657-8323. (35)

Black Bi male, 5'9", 155 lbs., masculine, muscular, X-Marine, 29, 8½ and thick. Seeks Blk or Hispanic right guy, non-fat, non-fem. Me: versatile w/foot fetish. Box 06283, Chicago, IL 60606-0283. (34)

GBM, 28, just came out, desire new friends. Age, race unimportant. Sincerity is. Photo requested, not necessary. Will answer all replies. Gene, Box 2873, Carbondale, IL 62902. (33)

Gay white male seeks gay black male, 30s, in Chicago, Illinois. 312-525-1267. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—KY

Gay white male, 29, looking for sincere blacks for possible relationship. Can relocate anywhere upon release. James Fitzgerald #98743, Northpoint Training Center, Box 479, Burgin, KY 40310. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—LA

GWM, 47, 6', 175, non-smoker, moustache, hairy chest, enjoys reading, traveling, movies and dining out. Seeking masculine male, 35-50, with similar interests for friendship and more. Please send letter and photo to Dick, Box 15078, New Orleans, LA 70175. All replies answered. (33)

Gay black father seeks friendship/relationship with other gay fathers black or white or those who appreciate children who have reached adolescent age. I am a warm sensitive romantic in search of others who are family-oriented. Write Ly-Leh, Box 144, Evergreen, LA 71333. (E)

Black male, seeking bi-couples, TVs, TSs, drag queens, crossdressers, any race, any shape, ages 21 to 55, for friendship, kinky times, swinging. Am clean and discreet. Like all cultures. Motel meetings in Natchez, Mississippi, Vidalia, Louisiana, Ferriday, Louisiana area. Call anytime day or night. 318-339-9269. C.B., Box 941, Jonesville, LA 71343. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MD

Nice guy seeks same for friendship. This 50-year-old straight-acting WM is looking for a very masculine BM. Pleasant disposition, positive outlook and stability are important to me. Blue collar, thick endowment and trim build are pluses. Send detailed letter and photo of yourself to: BLK Mailbox #118 or call 301-779-6738. Pen pals welcome. Visitors to D.C. should call in advance of arrival. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MA

WM, 53, seeks thin, romantic, clean black male in Boston. Call 617-524-0417. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MI

WM, 32, 5'7", 155#, would like to meet BM for wild and freaky times. I am into leather and have a bubble butt. You must also! Possibilities for a relationship. No J/O calls. 313-527-2965. (35)

Professional masculine GBM, 31, 6'2", 190#, HIV+, enjoy running, skiing, cooking and still dream about romance. Frustrated with the Detroit scene. I would like to meet/correspond with other masculine (not into roles) HIV+, GLatin/GB males for friendship and maybe more. I do not use drugs/smoke. Write. There is nothing to loose, but everything to gain. BLK Mailbox #135. (33)

MEN'S PERSONALS—MS

Handsome Samson. Brent, Unit 28, #44219 Parchman, MS. (34)

Sex god. Butler, Unit 28, #45779 Parchman, MS. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NV

GWM, 35+, 5'10", 155#, G/P, F/A, masculine, stable, multifaceted, seeks loving relationship with sincere successful GBM having similar goals and interests. Travel can be arranged. Call Mike directly. 702-792-6737. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NJ

Latin male, professional, clean, masculine, mid-forties, seeks the same in a black older gentleman only. No vices or pain. Occupant, Box 392, Passaic, NJ 07055. (34)

White male, 32, 160, brown hair, blue eyes, seeking young males for friends/sexual partners. Prefer cute, slim, smooth, cut, clean-shaven boyish Northern European, black and Southeast Asians. Like music, philosophy, science, health food. Am honest, sensitive, sincere. Live-in possible. No V.D., kinky/slutty types. Photo a must (preferably revealing)! Ron, Box 307, Irvington, NJ 07111-1940. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—NY

Slim WM, 49, dad/top, seeks FA son/bottom. Box 3042, NYC 10008. (33)

Masculine WM, 41, seeks top BM. BLK Mailbox #134. (32)

White professional seeks black man. Smith, 118 Second St., Albany, 12210.(E)

GWM, 42, 5'1", 125 lbs, brown hair, blue eyes, eyeglasses, considered cute. Cigarettes, wine, dancing, antiques, movies, rock, classical, quiet nights at home. Mature, responsible, warm, gentle, loving. Seek black male 40+, same attributes for friendship and possibly more. Rochester, N.Y. area. Serious replies only, send photo. BLK Mailbox #133 (E)

Lean, muscular, GBM, top, 52, 6', 155, seeks fit, muscular, intelligent bottoms, into camping, hiking, nudism, travel, all ages/races. J. Tree, Box 161, S.I., NY 10304. (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OH

W/M 26, smooth bottom. Sami Cripple. R138659, Box 120 Lebanon, OH 45036. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—OK

Goodlooking GBM. Raibon #33325-004, Box 1500, El Reno, OK 78067. (35)

MEN'S PERSONALS—SC

Attractive, masculine, GBM, 25, would like to meet GBM from everywhere who could teach an inexperienced ex-prisoner of guilt about being gay. The joy of gay sex! Am very eager to learn. Send your hottest letters and nude photos. In return you'll get mine. M.T., Box 12143, Cola, South Carolina. No fems, please! (E)

MEN'S PERSONALS—TX

Seeking GBM. Attractive GWM, 31, 6'1", 200 lbs., seeks blk male for friendship, love and more. Call or write Dennis Seay, Box 710048, Houston, TX 77271. 713-777-8342. (33)

GWM, 55, 5'8", 150, attractive Utah professional, seeks GBM or Latin athlete, non-smoker, non-drinker, non-drug user. If you fit this description and are seriously looking for a quality one-one relationship, call 801-364-2523. (32)

MEN'S PERSONALS—VA

Suck me. Balsom, Box 430, Dillwyn, VA 23936. (35)

GWM, 55, 160#, 5'9", stable, sane, secure, non-smoker/drinker, HIV negative, seeks similar black male under 40 years old, non-obese for friendship, good times, mutual pleasures and possible relationship. Box 23093, Alexandria, VA 22304. (34)

MEN'S PERSONALS—WA

GWM, Christian desires GBM friendship. B.H., Box 3263, Seattle, WA 98144. (34)

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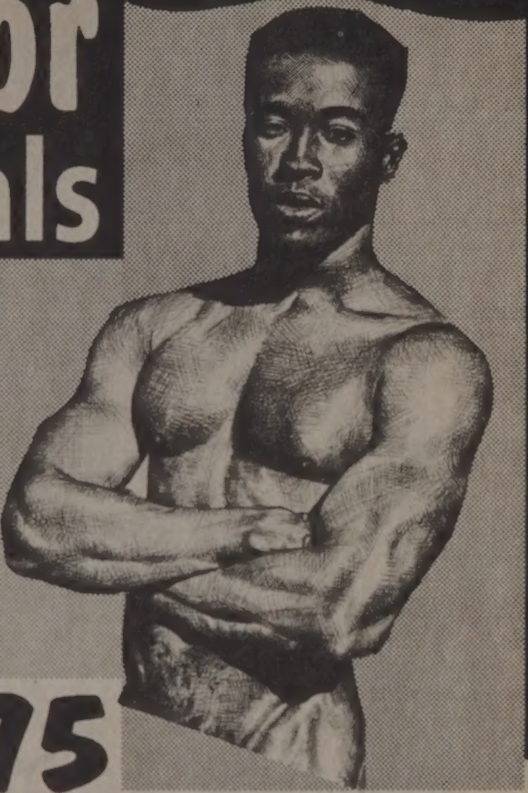

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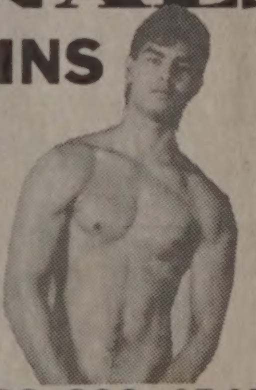

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